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★ Aquarius born on Friday Jan 25.
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★ Debuted with "Sono Hanashi Okotowari Shimasu" (Bessatsu Shojo Comic Oct 1994 issue).
★ Currently writing for BetsuComi.

Message from the author

The theme is "Don't think, feel it!" (seriously). I hope you'll hang out with me for a while. Thank you!

純愛上等コミック!!
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FC FLOWER COMICS
ベツコミフラワーコミックス

[Volume.1]

Piece
ピース

芦原妃名子

Betsucomi FLOWER COMICS

Piece ピース [Volume.1]

芦原妃名子

小学館 FC2157

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A few years after graduating from high school, a sudden call came to Mizuho. It was a sad news about her classmate, Haruka Origuchi. Mizuho is informed that shy, quiet, Haruka got pregnant while they were in high school. Haruka's mother asks Mizuho to find the man responsible. But Mizuho was afraid. She was afraid of seeing Hikaru Narumi again. The guy she kissed once in high school. This is the first volume of much awaited new series from Hinako Ashihara.

The puzzle that remains incomplete.
What do you think?
What do you hope?
What you do have?
The piece that makes you who you are.

Hinako Ashihara's FCs

Piece volume 1
Tsuki to Mizuumi
Chouchou Kumo
Sunadokei (10 volumes total)
Tennen Bitter Chocolate (3 volumes total)
Derby Queen (3 volumes total)
Tenshi no Kiss (4 volumes total)
Girls Lesson (3 volumes total)
Homemade Home
Hoshifuru Heya de
MISS (2 volumes total)
Sunadokei FAN BOOK

★ Hinako Ashihara's masterpiece collections
(1) Yubikiri
(2) SOS
(3) Konbini S

Cover design／
黒木香＋ベイブリッジ・スタジオ

Piece①

Piece

by Hinako Ashihara

The Credits

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Progfrender: bumblebea
Editor: sangruniverse

Brought to you by Dragon Voice

Piece

[Volume.1]

芦原妃名子

Piece [Volume 1]

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芦原妃名子

新シリーズ!

Piece

ピース

表紙カラー

60

This puzzle...
...always remains incomplete...

Hinako Ashihara

芦原妃名子

待望の新シリーズ　開始! 巻頭カラー60ページ

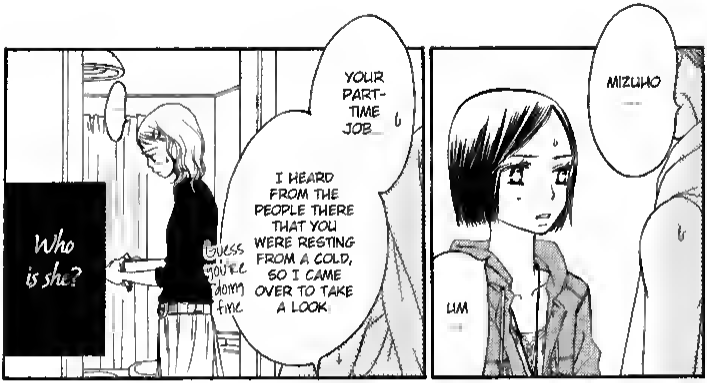
I wonder why I'm trying to search for it...
This puzzle piece where something is always hanging on the line...
We reunited once again, when one of our classmates passed away.
NEWS
Vol.1
~ Her Memories ~
Piece
ピース

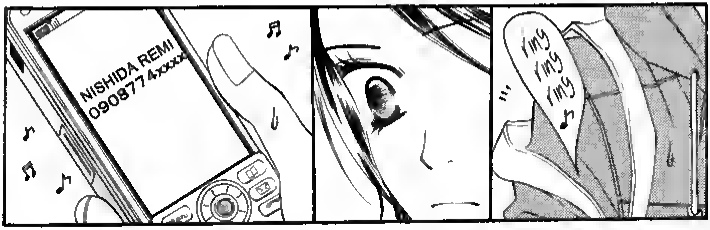
Piece
Story 1
ストーリーワン

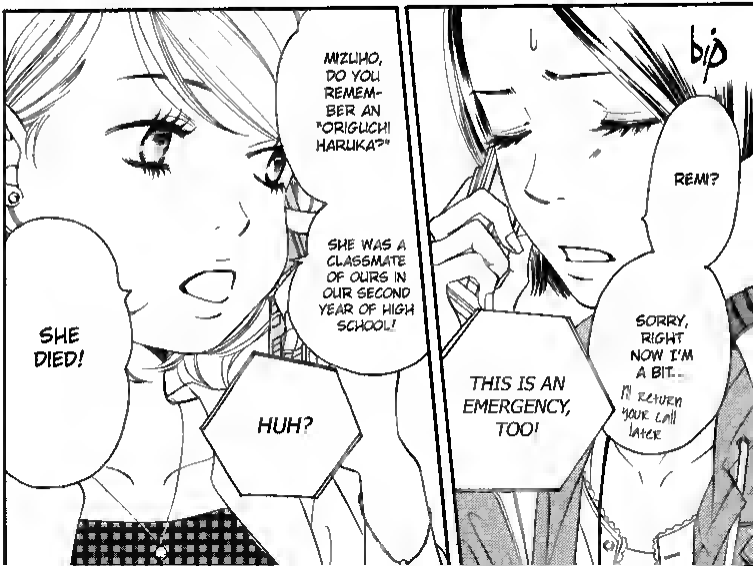
Somehow,

I had a bad feeling.

Probably because of the number of emails and the number of smiles.


Who is she?
I guess you're feeling fine.
I HEARD FROM THE PEOPLE THERE THAT YOU WERE RESTING FROM A COLD, SO I CAME OVER TO TAKE A LOOK.
YOUR PART-TIME JOB...
MIZUHO
UM


NISHIDA REMI
090877Axxxx
ring ring ring


MIZUHO, DO YOU REMEMBER AN "ORIGUCHI HARUKA?"
SHE WAS A CLASSMATE OF OURS IN OUR SECOND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL!
SHE DIED!
HUH?
REMI?
SORRY, RIGHT NOW I'M A BIT...
I'll return your call later
THIS IS AN EMERGENCY, TOO!

honk honk honk
To be honest,
I had forgotten about her existence until today.
Origuchi Haruka...
I HEARD IT WAS FROM BREAST CANCER.
SHE WAS ONLY NINETEEN YEARS OLD, TOO I WAS SURPRISED.
SO ABOUT THE FUNERAL TOMORROW ...
Are you going?
bip
MIZUHO!
REMI!
Long time no see!
SWAP
Long time no see! ♡

I KNEW I SHOULD HAVE GONE CO-ED
OH...
YOUR BOYFRIEND GOES TO THE SAME COLLEGE AND IS IN THE SAME DEPARTMENT AS YOU, RIGHT?
How nice Shuuta
WE'RE IN AN ALL-FEMALE COLLEGE, YOU KNOW. IF I DON'T DO THAT, I'LL NEVER MEET ANYONE
Hmph! Hmph!
HM. I see
IT'S BEEN A WHILE. I'M REALLY SORRY I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO KEEP IN TOUCH
I HOLD SEVERAL POSITIONS IN CLUBS OVER AT S COLLEGE AND M COLLEGE, SO I'VE BEEN SUPER BUSY!
To be accurate, I ran away without putting up a fight.
EHHHH? THAT'S SURPRISING! EVEN YOU GET INTO ARGUMENTS, MIZUHO?
You don't give off that image
THE TRUTH IS
WE'VE BEEN IN AN ARGUMENT SINCE YESTERDAY.
Ah ha ha!
HUH?
I'LL LEAVE FOR THE TIME BEING.
I came over so suddenly
I'LL CALL YOU LATER
WE'LL TALK AGAIN ONCE THINGS HAVE SETTLED DOWN
YEAH
THAT GIRL
SHE'S THE ONE FROM THE SAME LITERATURE DEPARTMENT AS YOU.
I've seen her before

ALL RIGHT
I wonder...
...if he was having an "affair."
He didn't try to make any excuses, though.
ABOUT ORIGUCHI-SAN,
I HEARD THAT SHE WORKED AT A CONVENIENT STORE AND DIDN'T GO TO COLLEGE.
Was she a freeter?
HUH?
I'M TALKING ABOUT ORIGUCHI-SAN! SHE DIDN'T GO TO A UNI-VERSITY!
That's rare for Convent school girls, it's...
SORRY, WASN'T PAYING ATTEN-TION
I NEVER REALLY SPOKE WITH HER, YOU KNOW.
I WON'T BE CRYING!
I FEEL BAD SAYING THIS, BUT WHEN THEY TOLD ME SHE HAD DIED, I DIDN'T FEEL A THING
I think nearly everyone has the same impression...
...when it comes to Origuchi-san.
That goes for me as well
Sorry, Origuchi-san.
Eh?
Tamako came too?
BIP
OH! I'VE GOT A CALL! IT'S FROM NAMI!
Yeah, Hello? We'll be there soon.

Always huddled in a corner of the classroom,
she sat with her breath held.
She neither spoke, laughed, nor lost her temper with anyone.
I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER HER FACE
That was my only impression of her.
..WAS NARUMI, RIGHT?
JUST ABOUT THE ONLY PERSON WHO SPOKE FREELY WITH ORIGUCHI-SAN
WELL, THAT GUY'S PRETTY MUCH OK WITH ANYONE AS LONG AS THEY ARE FEMALE
Well said.
HAHA!
SAME HERE
I was like "Who is this?"
BEFORE I GOT HERE, I SWUNG BY MY PARENTS' HOUSE AND CHECKED OUR GRADUATION ALBUM
THE ONLY THING I REMEMBER IS THAT SHE IGNORED ME WHEN I TRIED TALKING TO HER

NARUMI-KUN KEPT GETTING BAD GRADES
I WONDER HOW HE'S DOING NOW?
AHAH!
That's for sure.
Yep
HE RE-TOOK HIS COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS
AND NOW GOES TO F COLLEGE
I SEE.
HEY, HEY, HEY! LOOK OVER THERE! YANAI-SENPAI CAME!
EH?! WHAT FOR?! DID SOME-ONE GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM?!
IT WAS ME!♡ YANAI-SENPAI WAS ON THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE WITH ORIGUCHI-SAN
It was my only chance!♡
WAY TO GO, AYA-CHIN!

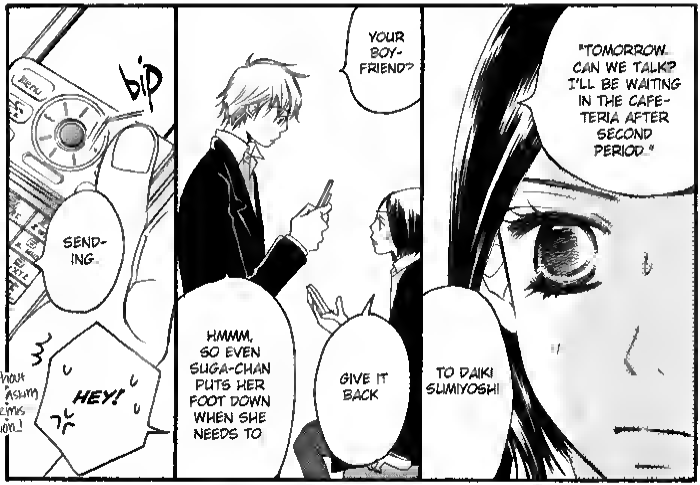
EVEN OUR GYM TEACHER, MIYAMOTO, SHOWED UP.
Yuck
"SEXUAL HARRASSER" MIYAMOTO?
WHAT A DRAG.
Hey, kids.
Yanai senpai!
A LOT OF THE TEACHERS
Hey, Kojima came from Contemporary Japanese!

THIS... FEELS LIKE A NORMAL CLASS REUNION.
Is that really OK?
Wait!
Long time no see!
INQUIRING MODE
NETWORK SEARCHING
CLICK CLICK
BEEP

DECEASED
ORIGUCHI
HARUKA
CEREMONIES
BURIAL
FUNERAL
SERVICE
CEREMONIAL
HALL
THERE ARE NO NEW MESSAGES
OK
menu
chatter chatter
chatter
swoosh

NARUMI-KUN!
HUH?
THE FUNERAL HASN'T STARTED YET?
I got here late too
SEEMS LIKE PRETTY MUCH EVERYONE SHOWED UP
LONG TIME NO SEE
THOSE WHO PASSED AROUND THE NEWS THAT IT WAS AT TWELVE MADE THE MISTAKE OF TELLING THE TIME AN HOUR EARLY
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
I WORKED ALL NIGHT YESTERDAY
I could have slept for another hour
AHAHA!
chatter
chatter
chatter
chatter
chatter

WRITING MESSAGE
DAIKI SUMIYOSHI
TOMORROW
CAN WE TALK?
I'LL BE WAITING IN THE CAFETERIA AFTER SECOND PERIOD
WRITING MESSAGE
DAIKI SUMIYOSHI
TOMORROW
chatter chatter chatter
NARU...
THIS IS A NEW MODEL.
AWESOME

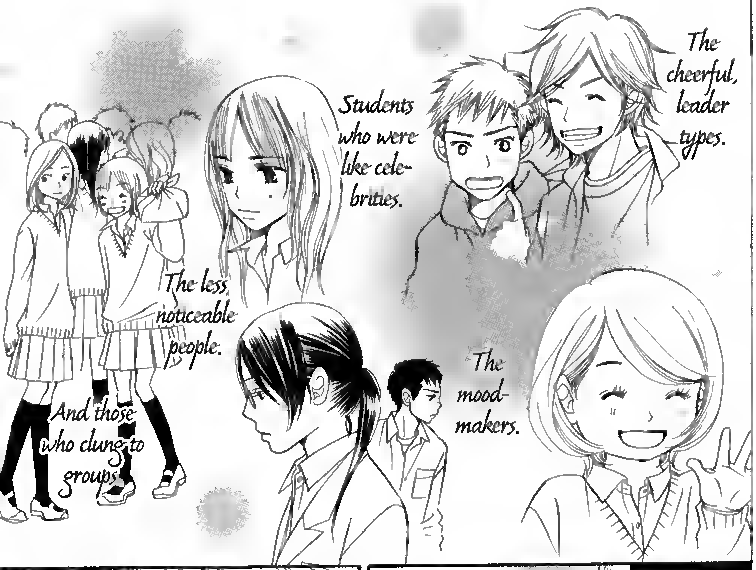

"TOMORROW. CAN WE TALK? I'LL BE WAITING IN THE CAFE-TERIA AFTER SECOND PERIOD."
TO DAIKI SUMIYOSHI
YOUR BOY-FRIEND?
GIVE IT BACK
HMMM, SO EVEN SUGA-CHAN PUTS HER FOOT DOWN WHEN SHE NEEDS TO
bip
Menu
SEND-ING..
HEY!
Without even asking permission!

NARUMI-KUN—
I HEARD YOU'RE ATTEND-ING F COLLEGE?

THIS GUY..
WAKE ME UP WHEN THE FUNERAL SERVICE STARTS.
PLOP
GOING TO SLEEP FOR A BIT

SUGA-CHAN.
EVEN BACK THEN, YOU WERE ALWAYS OVERESTIMAT-ING ME
EITHER WAY...
SO WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS CUTTING CORNERS?
YOU COULD HAVE AIMED FOR A MORE PRESTI-GIOUS UNIVER-SITY.
.. DON'T TALK TO ME
I'M SLEEPY.
YEAH YEAH SORRY.

Because we were in the same classroom for one whole year,
with our desks lined up each and every day,
somehow,
I was able to see everyone's different "colors."
AH.
HIS HEAD ROLLED OVER.
THAT WAS QUICK!
ZZZ
PON
HE FALLS ASLEEP SO EASILY
snore


The cheerful, leader types.
Students who were like celebrities.
The less noticeable people.
And those who clung to groups.
The mood-makers.

But...
...this guy was the only one I couldn't comprehend at all.

To be honest, I had no way of knowing for sure.
But even so...
...there were times when I'd think, without further ado, "Oh, so that person was this type of person, huh?"
And I felt that I understood them.

"BY THE WAY, SUGA-SAN,"
"YOU'RE NOT POPULAR, ARE YOU?"
WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
WELL, IT WAS JUST A FEELING.
IT'S LIKE YOU DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN AROUND OTHER PEOPLE
HASN'T ANYONE TOLD YOU THAT BEING WITH YOU TIRES THEM OUT?
YOU'VE GOT A PRETTY FACE TO BE HONEST
WOW. THAT'S JUST TOO BAD.

What he was looking at, thinking, wishing for, or what he disliked...

I couldn't even glimpse a fragment of those things.

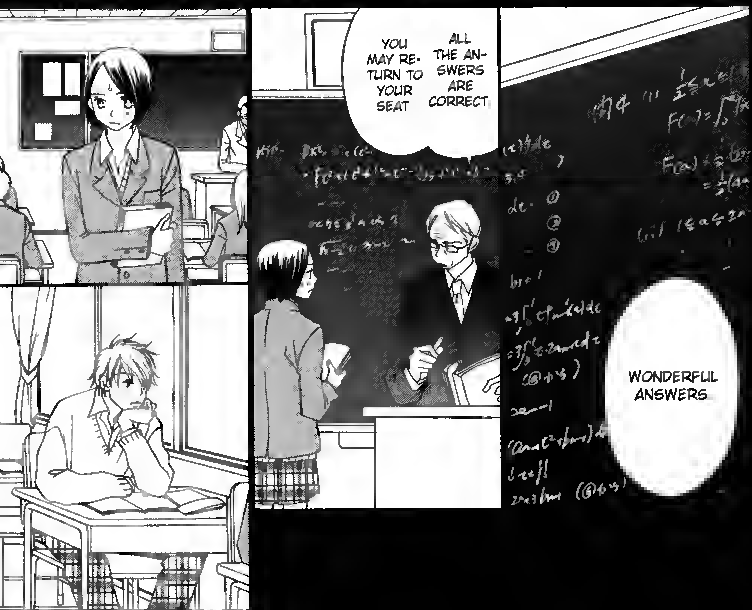
...THE TYPE WHO GETS CHEATED ON.
YOU'RE DEFINITELY ...
NO... YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO LAUGH AT THAT PART...
Please... Laugh about it. You're my friends, aren't you?
"YOU'RE NOT JUST CHUBBY, YOU'RE REALLY FAT."
EH?! HE SAID THAT TO YOU?!
GIRLS BATHROOM
SERIOUSLY? NARUMI'S ALWAYS ASLEEP OR DOZING OFF, BUT HE SURE DROPS A MEAN BOMB WHEN HE OPENS THAT MOUTH OF HIS.
YOU CAN'T REALLY HATE HIM, RIGHT? HE'S ALWAYS SO NICE...
EH, BUT I REALLY LIKE NARUMI-KUN.
You've crossed the line.
AH! HE'S SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO ME BEFORE

AS A HUMAN BEING,
HE'S LACKING SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
It's rare...
...for someone to be able to analyze even that much about him.
I HATE HIM.
GIRLS ARE NOTHING BUT TOOLS TO HIM.
TOTALLY! HE SURE KNOWS HOW TO DEAL WITH GIRLS.
Maybe he has a sister?
I THINK HE'S MUCH BETTER THAN THE VULGAR GUYS WE HAVE AROUND NOWADAYS
WELL, I...
HUH?
WHAT 'BOUT YOU, MIZUMO?
How do you feel about him?
I could sense whether a person wanted to be liked by someone...
...or if he was really trying to hurt the other person instead.
I can get a feel for the hidden side of people's behaviors.
I'M NOT SURE.
WHEN IT COMES TO NARUMI-KUN,
HIS EMOTIONS ARE UN-READABLE.
Normally...

You can call that weird because it is.
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO THIS GUY, I CAN'T READ HIS INTENTIONS AT ALL
NODDING OFF
YAWN
You might even call that very interesting.
WELL, NARUMI DOESN'T REALLY MATTER ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.
Who cares!
ANYWAY, I NEED TO STUDY...
Next class is math, right?
THE TEACHER IS GOING TO CALL ON ME TODAY...
BUH-
HUH?
I forgot my workbook?!
After I spent all that time preparing for the lesson!
Murata, our math teacher, is pretty scary, too!
I'LL GO AND BORROW A WORKBOOK FROM ANOTHER CLASS FOR NOW
CLUNK
rattle
TAKE YOUR SEATS
Day dying would be Kurosawa Shot
SLAM

TODAY IS... THE TWENTY-SECOND, HUH?
SEAT NUMBER TWENTY-TWO! SUGA MIZUHO!
STEP FORWARD FOR QUESTIONS ONE THROUGH FIVE.
Solve them for us.
YES, SIR.
I... I'M SORRY. THE WORK-BOOK...
HUH?
Next up is question six through ten!
thud
UM... ARE YOU SURE?
GO AHEAD.

flip
flip
flip
flip


YOU MAY RETURN TO YOUR SEAT
ALL THE ANSWERS ARE CORRECT
WONDERFUL ANSWERS

THIS WORK-BOOK CAN'T BELONG TO SOME-ONE WHO ALWAYS FAILS HIS TESTS.
What's going on? Is it someone else's book? What is it, really?
HM?
YOU'VE PREPARED YOUR LESSON THOROUGHLY FROM ONE PAGE TO THE NEXT!
I was taken by surprise.
Thanks.
NEW MATH IB
HIGH LEVEL EXERCISES
ARE YOU ALWAYS TAKING IT EASY ON TESTS?
YOU THINK SO?
"You think so?" he says.
It was a mistake on my part....
...for "wanting to know."

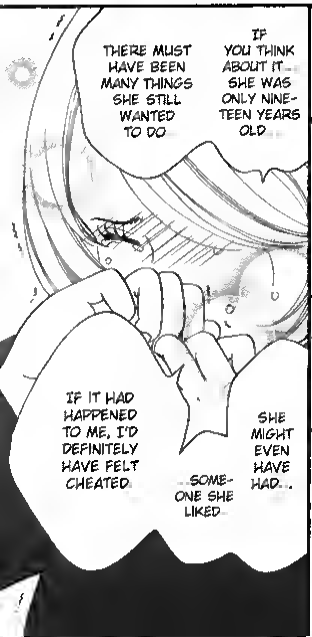
Wanting to know the other side of him...
...that he's composed of.
The pieces, components and colors of him.

Even if it was just a fragment—
Ding Ding
gasp

SUMIYOSHI DAIKI
RE: TOMORROW
OK. WE'LL DISCUSS IT TOMORROW.
MIZUHO!
IT'S FROM SUMIYOSHI-KUN
bip
INCOMING
OH
A TEXT MESSAGE
MESSAGE BOX
11:55 SUMIYOSHI DAIKI
RE: TOMORROW
bip
tap
IT'S GOING TO START.
OK.
WAKE UP NARUMI!
HUH?
ouch!
Heh heh!
HE'S STILL ASLEEP.
HUH? IT'S NARUMI-KUN.
So he came.
DECEASED
ORIGUCHI
HARUKA
CEREMONIES
BURIAL
FUNERAL
SERVICE
CEREMONIAL
HALL

Hic
Hic
HNGH
!
Hic

Before the bereaving family
Hic
Hic
Hic
the class-reunion mood that was going on earlier has died down.
Sniffle
Sniffle


IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT... SHE WAS ONLY NINE-TEEN YEARS OLD
THERE MUST HAVE BEEN MANY THINGS SHE STILL WANTED TO DO
IF IT HAD HAPPENED TO ME, I'D DEFINITELY HAVE FELT CHEATED
SOME-ONE SHE LIKED
SHE MIGHT EVEN HAVE HAD...

UUUNGH...
Huh?
Hic
YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T CRY
THAT'S BECAUSE...
Sniff

The funeral of a girl who was only nineteen years old,
holds an unlimited effect
drip
UNGH...

I feel...
...that I'm a very cold human being.
I FEEL SORRY FOR HER
Sniff
During times like these,
Sniff
I do understand that...
...they must be chagrined and miserable
But these feelings don't lead to tears.
Even when things get tough and sad things happen to me.
There is another me inside of my head, who is always composed.
She watches the whole thing with cool eyes.
That's sort of how I feel.
Sob
Sob
ALL THOSE IN ATTENDANCE
IF YOU COULD PLEASE FORM A LINE FOR THE INCENSE BURNING

I've never been able to cry well
It's always been like this.
I may be lacking some of those.
Maternal instinct, compassion, femininity.
Or...
Maybe I don't have enough imagination.
Maybe that's why I'm being cheated on.
"
"

THE MOTHER RESEMBLES ORIGUCHI-SAN...
MIZUHO, MIZUHO!
YOU DROPPED YOUR HANDKER-CHIEF
AH, SORRY & Thanks.
bow
gasp
HUH?
MIZUHO ...?

chatter chatter
chatter
ARE YOU...
MISS MIZUHO SUGA ...?
Um... AUNTIE ...?
don't understand
Oh.
WEREN'T YOU CLOSE FRIENDS WITH HARUKA WHILE SHE WAS STILL ALIVE?
Huh?
THANK YOU SO MUCH!

EVER SINCE SHE WAS YOUNG SHE NEVER MADE FRIENDS EASILY..
I WORRIED THAT SHE MIGHT BE PICKED ON IN HIGH SCHOOL. BUT THEN, AROUND THE SUMMER OF HER SECOND YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL I THINK
? ?
?!
I...
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN GRATEFUL TO YOU.
I WANTED TO MEET YOU AT LEAST ONCE,
AND GIVE YOU MY PROPER THANKS.
YOU SENT HER NEW YEAR'S CARDS EVERY YEAR, DIDN'T YOU?
I THOUGHT ABOUT PUTTING THEM IN HER CASKET TODAY, SO I BROUGHT THEM WITH ME!
LOOK!
HARUKA REALLY TREASURED THEM.
I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, "OH, I SEE SO SHE DOES HAVE A FRIEND WHO TREASURES HER AS WELL."
I WAS UTTERLY RELIEVED.
"I always eat lunch with this girl called Suga-san."
"I'm going shopping with Suga-san tomorrow!"
"You know, Mizuho? She's so strange!"
2003!
あけまして
おめでとう

THE TRUTH IS...
I WANTED TO MEET WITH YOU BECAUSE I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S ABLE TO
I'M SORRY, BUT THERE HAS been SOME KIND OF MIS-TAKE
HUH?
I'VE... HARDLY EVER SPOKEN TO ORIGUCHI-SAN
HM...
BUT THE NEW YEAR'S CARDS
THESE AREN'T MY HAND-WRITING
PER-HAPS ORIGUCHI-SAN HERSELF?
In order not to cause her mother to worry
bow
bow

With a bang
COULDN'T YOU HAVE JUST FED HER A LIE?
COLD-HEARTED
I WAS WONDERING WHAT WAS GOING ON.
So I eavesdropped
YOU WERE LISTENING?
NARUMI
chatter chatter
Y...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I JUST...
I wonder if she'll be OK
DON'T DEAL HER THE FINAL BLOW ON THE DAY OF HER DAUGHTER'S FUNERAL
WANT TO TAKE A WALK OUTSIDE...?
Suna san?
Huh?
What?
whisper

Since there are so many characters, I will do character intro in every free space I've got.

Mizuho Suga

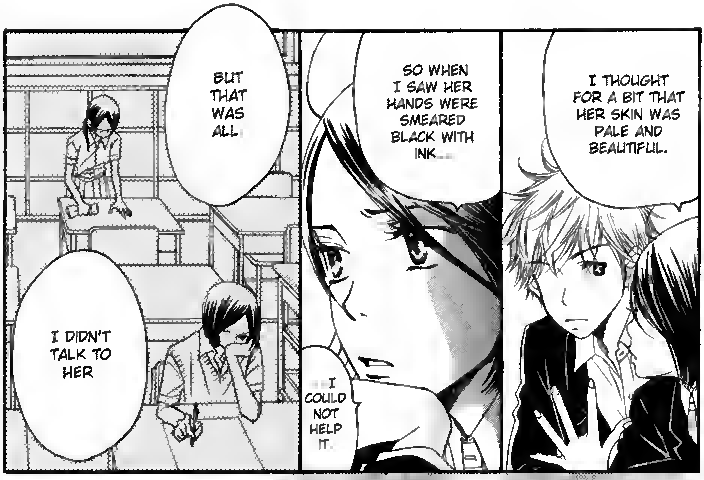
I was thinking this type of main character would make the story very subdued, and I was right. But I want to write about her. She's very cerebral and gives up easily.

WHY WAS IT YOU?
I DON'T KNOW.
BUT... JUST THIS ONE TIME,
I DID LEND ORIGUCHI-SAN MY HANDKER-CHIEF.
WHY
...WOULD ORIGUCHI CHOOSE YOU AS HER "BEST FRIEND"?
HANDKER-CHIEF?
DID YOU KNOW THAT...
...ORIGUCHI-SAN WAS BEING BULLIED BY SOME OF THE BOYS?
THEY'D CALL HER "UGLY" AND "CREEPY", THINGS LIKE THAT...
OH, RIGHT.
I REMEM-BER THAT...
IT WAS AROUND THE SUM-MER OF OUR SEC-OND YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL.
I...
...HAD GONE HOME AND FORGOTTEN MY RESEARCH PAPERS IN MY DESK IN THE CLASSROOM.
SO, WITH THE INTENTION OF GETTING THEM THE FOLLOWING MORNING
...I TOOK THE EARLIEST TRAIN AND WENT TO SCHOOL.

SHE SCARED ME....
YOU'RE HERE EARLY.
'MORNING!
FWP
IGNORING ME, HUH.
scrub scrub scrub
SCRUB
STUPID! UGLY! DIE!

What are they, junior high school kids?
SO THEY'RE STILL DOING THIS KIND OF PLAIN-AS-DAY BULLYING
rub rub
...
THUMP
SCRUB
DIE!
MAYBE SHE GETS HERE EARLY EVERY MORNING TO WIPE OUT THE GRAFFITI?
COULD IT BE...
Oo
SCRUB
SCRUB
SCRUB
SCRUB
SCRUB

ORIGUCHI-SAN
HAD THE SAME SKIN TONE AS A BABY, YOU KNOW.


I THOUGHT FOR A BIT THAT HER SKIN WAS PALE AND BEAUTIFUL.
SO WHEN I SAW HER HANDS WERE SMEARED BLACK WITH INK...
I COULD NOT HELP IT.
BUT THAT WAS ALL.
I DIDN'T TALK TO HER

THE NEXT DAY, INSIDE MY DESK,
I FOUND MY HAND-KERCHIEF WASHED CLEAN.
HMMM.
THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU, SUGA-CHAN.

JUST LIKE ME?
BOTH.
THAT I LENT HER THE HANDKERCHIEF?
OR THAT I DIDN'T TALK TO HER?
YOU KNOW ...
YOU TALK AS IF YOU KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT A PERSON.
I'VE ALWAYS HATED THAT!

"It's like you don't let your guard down around other people."
"Hasn't anyone told you that being with you tires them out?"
"You're definitely the type who gets cheated on."
CAFETERIA
HE DOESN'T REMEMBER
WHAT DID I SAY?
?
WHY'D YOU GET PISSED OFF?
SCARY!
IT WAS YOU.
YOU MADE THAT PREDICTION...
...THREE YEARS AGO.

chatter
chatter
chatter
chatter
chatter
I'M REALLY SORRY!
WHILE I WAS GETTING ADVICE FROM HER ON OUR RELATIONSHIP, I JUST COULDN'T LEAVE HER ALONE..
...ASKING FOR AN APOLOGY. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
I'M NOT...
SORRY!

So it wasn't an affair...
SORRY ...
...after all.
DO YOU WANT TO BREAK UP WITH ME?
WELL, THEN.
I'LL RETURN THE BOOKS I BORROWED FROM YOU.
I'LL BRING THEM TOMORROW.
FORGET IT.
JUST TOSS THEM OUT
OK ...
I UNDERSTAND.

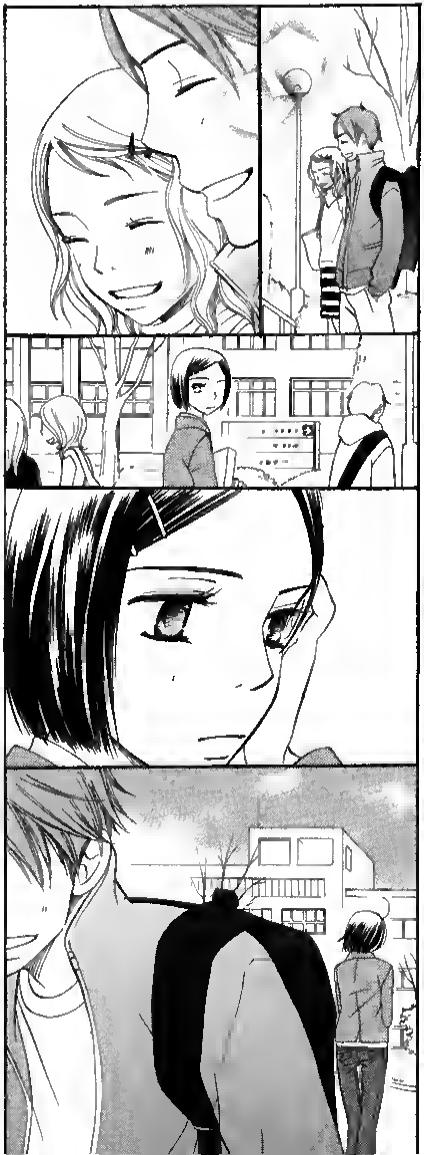
YOU DON'T CRY EVEN AT TIMES LIKE THIS.
I GUESS YOU REALLY
...DIDN'T LOVE ME AFTER ALL, MIZUHO.
WE DATED FOR NEARLY A YEAR, BUT I'VE NEVER FELT THAT YOU ACCEPTED ME EVEN ONCE.
I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT UN-RESTRAINED, UGLY SIDE OF YOU.
YOU'VE NEVER LOST CONTROL IN FRONT ME
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YOU.

YOU KNOW,
ALL I WANTED WAS FOR US TO SPEND MORE TIME ENJOYING THINGS TOGETHER AND DEPEND ON EACH OTHER MORE
TO FEEL THAT WE UNDERSTOOD ONE ANOTHER
THAT KIND OF—
YOU KNOW ...
I THINK I REALLY DID...
...LOVE YOU.
How you would weep over films with straightforward plots.
Or how you're impartially nice to everyone.
YOU'RE A WARM PERSON ...
I WANTED TO BECOME SOMEONE LIKE YOU.

WAS THAT SO WRONG OF ME?
IN THE FIRST PLACE
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO "REALLY LOVE SOMEONE?"
THEN LET ME ASK YOU THIS
It's just too difficult to understand.
WHAT?! SO IN THE END, SUMIYOSHI-KUN HAD A CHANGE OF HEART?

We need an aim, you know
GUYS WANT SOMEONE TO WRAP THEM UP AND HOLD THEM TIGHT WHEN THEY ARE FEELING LISELESS ♡
NO, NO, NO! THE TRUTH IS—
The more clumsy the better for me.
squeal
Ugh! How annoying!
BUT UNFORTUNATELY, SHE'S LACKING THAT HEALING AFFECT
MIZUHO'S NOT BAD HERSELF
Huh?
Yeah, I think so.
WHAT'S WITH YOU GUYS? TALKING SO ARROGANTLY!
HE'S AWFUL!
Two timing is the worst
YEAH, BUT I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED THE GIRL IN THE LITERATURE DEPARTMENT'S KINDA CUTE
HEY, HOW'S MIZUHO? Is she OK?
HUH? SHE'S ATTENDING HER CLASSES NORMALLY
SEEMS LIKE SHE'S DOING FINE
SHE'S PRETTY COOL ABOUT IT
As usual
BUT IT'S AS IF SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY INTEREST IN OTHER PEOPLE TO BEGIN WITH.

Piece①

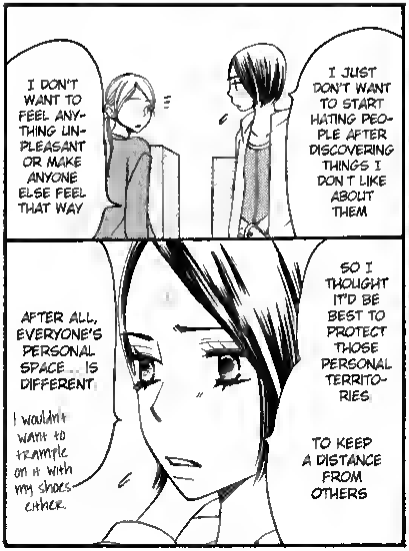


MIZUHO-CHAN...
GOOD AFTER-NOON...
DING DONG
ORIGUCHI
OH, MY
CLACK
ORIGUCHI HARUKA

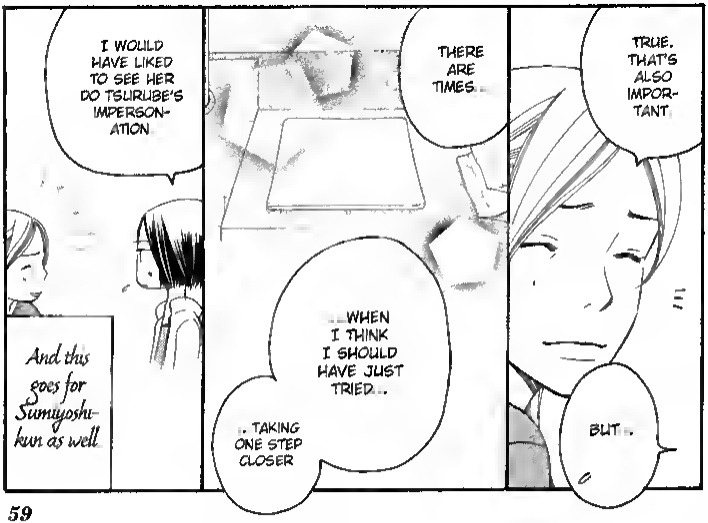
"MIZUHO'S BUSY WITH COLLEGE AND HER PART-TIME JOB!" OR "MIZUHO'S PARENTS FELL ILL AND SHE HAS TO DO ALL THE HOUSEWORK!"
SHE'D DESPERATELY MAKE UP THESE SORTS OF EXCUSES
Really?
HOW COULD A CLOSE FRIEND NOT DROP BY EVEN ONCE...
TO VISIT HER WHILE SHE WAS BEING HOSPITALIZED?
ARUKA
THE TRUTH IS...
I DID FIND IT A BIT STRANGE
I'VE BECOME... SUCH A GOOD PERSON
I'm pretty much a laid back college student though...
YOU SEE?
PRETTY HARD TO BELIEVE, HUH?
SHE MAY SEEM PRETTY SEVERE TO STRANGERS,
BUT SHE WAS A VERY CHEERFUL PERSON AT HOME.
SHE JOKED AROUND A LOT
SHE HAD A KNACK FOR IMPERSONATING TSURUBE.*
She was really good at it
Hm?
No way
I WANTED ...
...PEOPLE TO KNOW ...
...THAT SIDE OF HER.

*Trans note: Referring to the Japanese comedian called Shofukutei Tsurube

ONEGAI KAMI-SAMA
HARUKA, AREN'T YOU GLAD MIZUHO-CHAN CAME TO VISIT?
"with"
That time...
I should have...
...spoken up.


I DON'T WANT TO FEEL ANYTHING UNPLEASANT OR MAKE ANYONE ELSE FEEL THAT WAY
I JUST DON'T WANT TO START HATING PEOPLE AFTER DISCOVERING THINGS I DON'T LIKE ABOUT THEM
AFTER ALL, EVERYONE'S PERSONAL SPACE... IS DIFFERENT
I wouldn't want to trample on it with my shoes either.
SO I THOUGHT IT'D BE BEST TO PROTECT THOSE PERSONAL TERRITORIES
TO KEEP A DISTANCE FROM OTHERS

I should have said, "Let's wipe it clean together."
I'M... NOT VERY GOOD AT GETTING INVOLVED...
...IN OTHER PEOPLE'S SECRETS


I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO SEE HER DO TSURUBE'S IMPERSONATION
And this goes for Sumiyoshi-kun as well
...WHEN I THINK I SHOULD HAVE JUST TRIED...
...TAKING ONE STEP CLOSER
THERE ARE TIMES...
TRUE. THAT'S ALSO IMPORTANT
BUT...

I didn't mean to put...
...that expression on his face.
YOU'VE ALREADY DONE ENOUGH BY COMING HERE
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

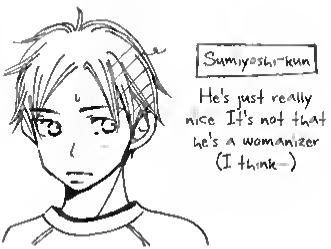
EXCUSE ME—!
WHAT WAS THE "FAVOR," YOU WANTED TO ASK OF ME THE OTHER DAY?!
IF YOU ARE ALL RIGHT WITH ME...
...I'D LIKE TO HELP!
Why?

Why am I saying this?
Why do I suddenly want to get myself involved?
...I'd like to try...
...changing myself a bit.
Perhaps...

I...
...I WANT YOU TO FIND SOME-ONE.
THERE WAS A MAN THAT HARUKA DATED...
...WHEN SHE WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL.
HUH?!
LIKE I SAID, HARUKA'S EX-BOYFRIEND!♡
WELL...
UM...
Ex-boyfriend...?
THE THING IS...
IT WOULD BE PRETTY RUDE TO SAY THIS, BUT...

I DON'T BELIEVE HARUKA-SAN EVER HAD A BOYFRIEND.
bluntly speaking
BUT SHE DEFINITELY HAD ONE! I'M SURE OF IT!
How rude.
HARUKA ...
...WAS ONCE PREGNANT...
...WITH THAT MAN'S CHILD.

ARE...
...YOU SERIOUS ...?
That was...
...how it all began.


Sumiyoshi-kun
He's just really nice It's not that he's a womanizer (I think—)

Piece

by Hinako Ashihara

The Credits

Colorscanner: Ally

Scanner: kuinni

Translator: Ara Slown

Cleaner: niki sweety

Typesetter: manganiverse

Brought to you by Dragon Voice

Story2

シリーズ連載 第2話

芦原妃名子
Hinako Ashihara

カラー60ページ

「砂時計」イラスト集が
2015年6月19日発売!

★FCS「新装版 ユビキリ」
「新装版 SOS」「コンビニ S」も
絶賛発売中!

★小説「砂時計」
「フォトノベル砂時計」も
よろしくね!

13歳で死んだ私は、誰かの子を身籠った。

水帆

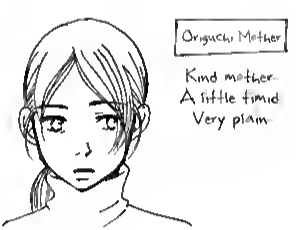
この父親は、

Vol.2

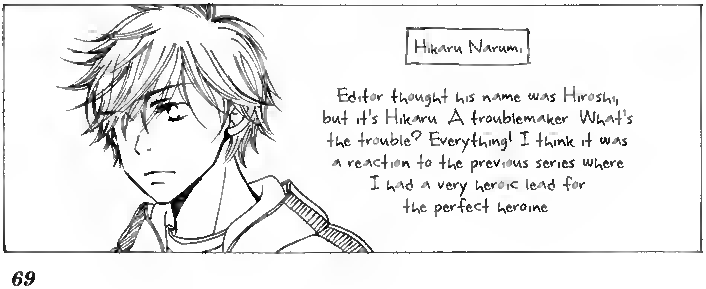
Piece

ピース

トリプル感謝祭

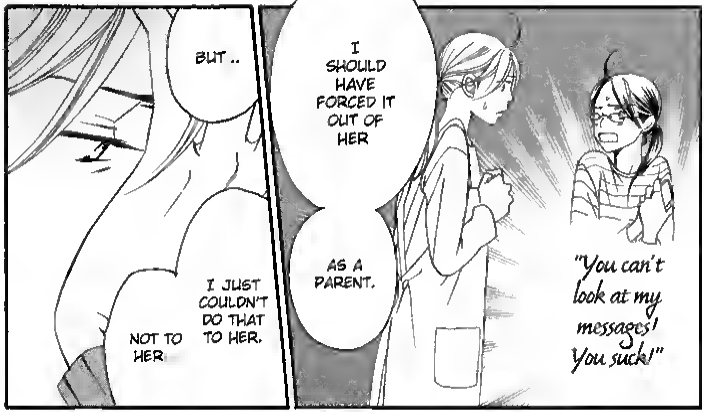

Origuchi Mother
Kind mother
A little timid
Very plain

"I need you to find someone."
"Someone Haruka was seeing back when she was in high school."
No way!
"She..."
"...got pregnant with him."
Oneuchi-san got pregnant?!
DOES THAT MEAN ..
SHE HAD AN ABORTION ..?


Hikaru Narumi
Editor thought his name was Hiroshi, but it's Hikaru. A troublemaker. What's the trouble? Everything! I think it was a reaction to the previous series where I had a very heroic lead for the perfect heroine

SHE BOUGHT A CELL PHONE AND CAME HOME LATE.
SHE SUDDENLY STARTED A PART TIME JOB
IT DID MAKE ME WONDER, BUT...
THEN, A NEIGHBOR SAW HER .
BUYING A PREGNANCY TEST.
Pregnancy test
THE
SHE REFUSED TO TELL ME WHO IT WAS
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIME I ASKED ...
BECAUSE ...
SHE DIDN'T HAVE A BABY, RIGHT?
In high school

RATTLE
grab
To
XXXX@docomo.ne.jp
Today
I had an abortion.
I feel OK
SO I CHECKED HER CELL.
AND IN THE SENT MAIL BOX I FOUND


"You can't look at my messages! You suck!"
I SHOULD HAVE FORCED IT OUT OF HER
AS A PARENT.
BUT ..
I JUST COULDN'T DO THAT TO HER.
NOT TO HER

WHY NOT?
I REGRET IT NOW
NOW THAT SHE'S GONE.
EVEN IF IT HURT HER
EVEN IF I GOT HURT
WHAT-EVER THE REAL HARUKA WAS LIKE
I SHOULD HAVE FACED IT.
EVEN IF SHE HATED ME
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE IN-VOLVED
I WANT TO KNOW

ORIGUCHI
HUH (...?
THIS CALENDAR IS ALL YOU HAVE?
...I THINK THESE WERE THE DAYS SHE WAS MEETING HIM.
THE STARS MARKED HERE AND HERE, STARTING IN THE SUMMER...
I SEE... (Oh, yes, stars.
IT MATCHES THE DAYS WHEN SHE CAME HOME LATE

"I want to know."

I know that powerful desire.

flip
flip
flip
To be honest, I don't want to get into this...
It's just too depressing...
She got pregnant and had an abortion during that time?
Umm...
depressing
UGH. I FEEL DOWN...
Starting in July of the sophomore year, and ending the following February.
Only six months
SHE WAS OBSERVANT
CHUCKLE. THESE ARE GOOD.
Clean the blackboard
Math teacher Murata
THAT CHILD...
THESE ARE... EVERYONE FROM THE CLASS?
Tamiguchi-kun
Yasudomi-san
THEY'RE GOOD, AREN'T THEY?
Kouda-kun
SHE WAS A GOOD ARTIST.
Tomoi-san
SHE WANTED TO...
...GET TO KNOW YOU ALL BETTER.
Suga-san

Maybe I should give it a shot
...
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE?
THE BOOKSTORE SHE USED TO WORK AT... PLACES SHE LIKED TO HANG OUT
I DID CHECK THEM OUT, BUT NOTHING...
LETTERS AND GIFTS FROM THE GUY? PICTURES?
NOTHING...
SHE MIGHT'VE THROWN THEM OUT HER CELL PHONE AND COMPUTER ARE GONE, TOO...
PLEASE...
...FOLLOW HER MEMORIES
Yeah, but...
I THINK SOME THINGS ARE EASIER FOR YOU TO FIND, BEING HER OLD CLASSMATE AND ALL
HOW WAS SHE AT SCHOOL?
WAS THERE ANYONE WHO WAS ESPECIALLY KIND TO HER?
EVEN THE TINIEST RUMOR OR INFORMATION...
PLEASE...
SUGA

I really don't know anything about Origuchi-san.
UMM ...
Maybe I have to ask every single person from the school..
BUT IT'S SUCH A DELICATE SUBJECT ... Give me a break
"Sorry, but I can't even remember her face."
"I mean, the only person who ever talked to her was.."
"..Narumi, right?"
NARUMI ...?
NO... NO WAY.. Even for him Origuchi-san?
HIKARU NAR
NO.. IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE
That guy would

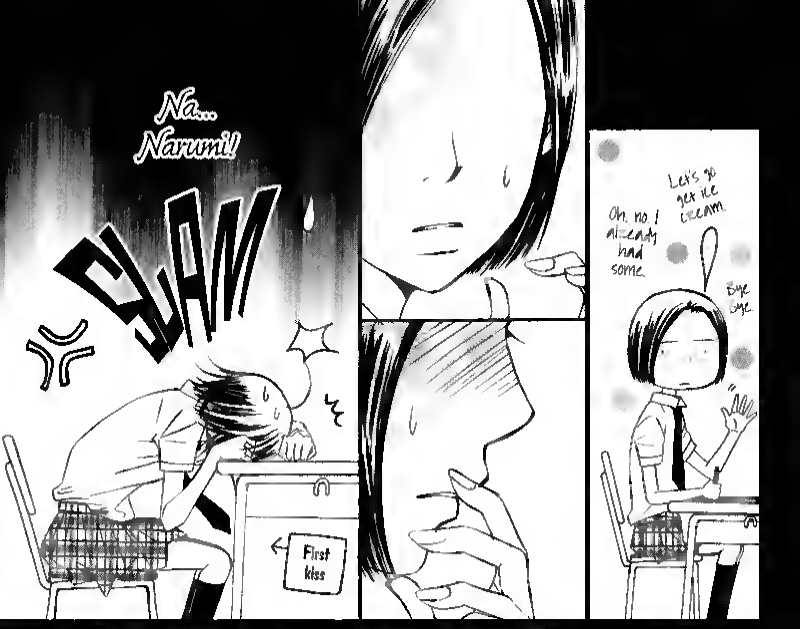
HEY.
YOU STILL HERE?
bzzzz
YOU SHOULDN'T WORK SO HARD. THOUGH YOU ARE WAY TOO SERIOUS.
WHOA! YOU ARE SO GOOD.
bzzz bzzzz bzzz
DAILY CLASS JOURNAL?
YUP.
surfle surfle surfle
IT'S NOT THAT I'M SERIOUS
THAT'S MORE WORK
I JUST DON'T WANT TO HEAR THE TEACHER COMPLAIN ABOUT IT LATER.
bzzzz

Well, even I...

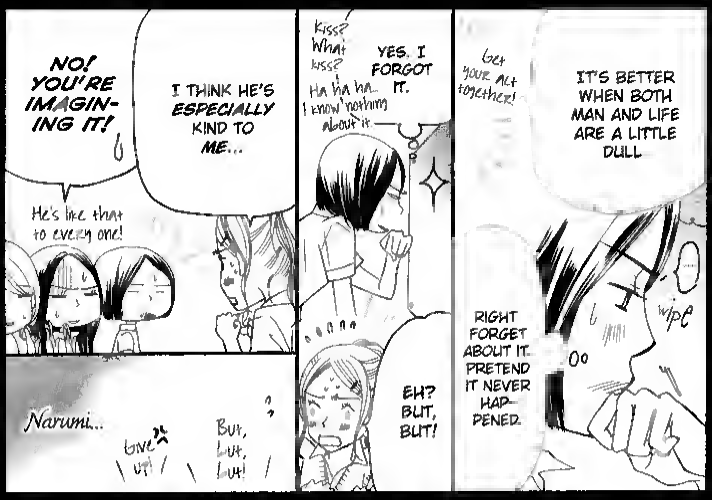
...have been his victim.

BUT "I SHOULD DO THIS AND THAT."
"THAT'S SMARTER AND MORE EFFICIENT," RIGHT?
OH, HERE HE GOES AGAIN...
IT'S NOT "I WANT TO DO THIS AND THAT."
Too stuffy.
SUGA-CHAN YOU'RE ALL LOGIC NO EMOTIONS HUH?
What?
THUD
NARUMI-KUN, YOU SHOULD REALLY STOP ANALYZING PEOPLE LIKE THAT.
IT'S RUDE.
AHAHAHA!
No...
STOP THAT "HA HA HA!"
YOUR WORDS CAN HURT, YOU KNOW?
sniffle sniffle sniffle

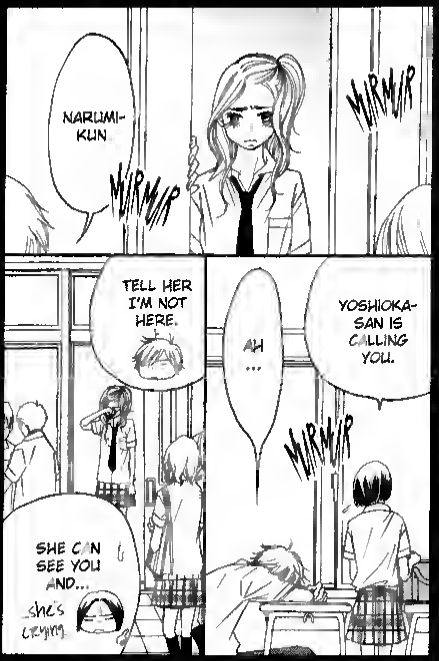
EH...
WHAT?
OH.
I JUST THOUGHT YOUR LIPS WERE SHINY AND PRETTY
AH I PUT ON LIP GLOSS
PATTER PATTER PATTER
OH, I SEE
IT'S PRETTY
AH! NARUMI-KUN! THERE YOU ARE!
SLIDE
SORRY FOR THE WAIT! LET'S GO!
HEY!
SEE YA, SUGA-CHAN
See you tomorrow
BYE, SUGA-SAN!


Na... Narumi!
SLAM
First kiss
Oh, no! I already had some.
Let's go get ice cream.
Bye bye

HE'S TOO MUCH FOR YOU TO HANDLE
DON'T GET SERIOUS ABOUT NARUMI
BUT!
IF YOU GO FOR THE WRONG TYPE IT COULD RUIN YOUR LIFE
YES THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF PEOPLE
NARUMI-KUN SAID SO!
WHAT? NO HE SAID HE WASN'T!
I SAW them, too
NO WAY!
HEY KYO-CHAN!
BUT I'VE SEEN THEM KISSING IN THE SCHOOL YARD
IS NARUMI-KUN DATING YOSHIOKA-SAN FROM THE OTHER CLASS?
They walk home together.


NO! YOU'RE IMAGINING IT!
I THINK HE'S ESPECIALLY KIND TO ME...
He's like that to everyone!
Narumi...
Give up
But, but, but!
Kiss? What kiss?
YES. I FORGOT IT.
Ha ha ha... I know nothing about it
EH? BUT, BUT!
Get your act together!
IT'S BETTER WHEN BOTH MAN AND LIFE ARE A LITTLE DULL
RIGHT FORGET ABOUT IT. PRETEND IT NEVER HAPPENED.
wipe

One more bite!
Yes!
He can step into other people's space easily.
He basically...
Gimme
...has no personal space.



He's equally close with everyone.

I think he's the worst.

I think he can be like that because he doesn't feel anything for anyone.

I guess the fastest way is to ask him directly.

Hikaru Narumi

01536××

I WONDER IF HIS OLD NUMBER IS STILL GOOD

ring ring

SUGA-CHAN? WOW.. I'M SUR-PRISED.

I WANT TO TALK. CAN WE MEET?

But...

I thought he had his own rules...

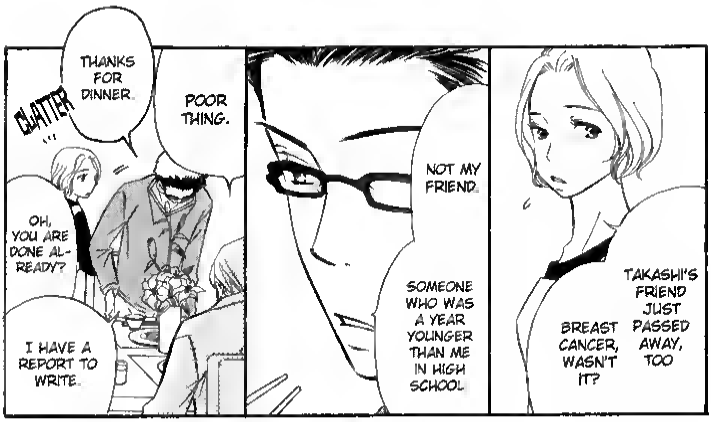
Hikaru Narumi

I WOULD BE REALLY TURNED OFF IF HE DID MESS AROUND WITH ORIGUCHI-SAN. kind of...

slurp
I DON'T THINK I DATED HER.
WITH ORIGUCHI ...?
ME?
I DON'T THINK WE DID IT.
YOU MEAN IF WE DID IT OR NOT?
I'M JUST WONDERING IF YOU GUYS HAD ...
UMM... YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BE DATING... FOR YOU
BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE ORIGUCHI DATING SOMEONE
ARE YOU SURE IT WASN'T HER MOM'S MISUNDERSTANDING?
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, TOO. BUT...
I CAN'T FIGURE OUT IF HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH OR NOT. IT'S A WASTE OF TIME...
slurp
SURE
Less ice, yes?
MISS CAN I HAVE ANOTHER GLASS OF ICED COFFEE?
SERIOUSLY...

HUH?
PREGNANCY! ABORTION
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH I SHOULD TELL...
I can't let it slip...
OK, FINE.
A YEAR OLDER THAN US
THEN JUST TELL ME WHATEVER YOU KNOW.
I NEVER HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT A GUY FROM HER
YOU USED TO TALK TO HER.
OH, BUT...
NOT SOMEONE ORIGUCHI LIKED,
BUT I KNOW A GUY WHO LIKED ORIGUCHI.
WHAT?!
NO WAY! WHO?!
TAKASHI YANAI

YANAI
YANAI SENPAI ...?
OH... I SEE.
SAKURAI-SAN.
SHE WAS SO YOUNG.
SAKURAI-SAN DIED OF A STOMACH CANCER?
IT'S HARD TO HEAR ABOUT PEOPLE OUR AGE...
I KNOW! SHE LOOKED SO HEALTHY
THAT IS TOO BAD...
NO WAY!


TAKASHI'S FRIEND JUST PASSED AWAY, TOO
BREAST CANCER, WASN'T IT?
NOT MY FRIEND.
SOMEONE WHO WAS A YEAR YOUNGER THAN ME IN HIGH SCHOOL
POOR THING.
THANKS FOR DINNER.
CLATTER
OH, YOU ARE DONE ALREADY?
I HAVE A REPORT TO WRITE.

HONEY, CAN YOU NOT PUT LILIES ON THE TABLE?
IT'S GOT SUCH A STRONG SMELL.

OH. I GUESS I'LL COULD PUT IT BY THE ENTRANCE
THAT WOULD BE GREAT.

SHUT
Gift

Ah.
Lilies...
She's one of the committee member... a year younger.
Origuchi-san, right?
TEACHER'S ROOM
I'VE SAID IT MANY TIMES, BUT...
I THINK ...

I'm good at statistics
WELL, I DO WORK HARD FOR IT.
YOUR EXAM ANSWERS ARE KINDA RUDE...
You know the average was 67%
I LIKE STUDYING.
THE MORE I STUDY, THE BETTER RESULTS I GET. ANSWERS ARE CLEAR AND THERE IS NO CONFUSION.
YOU REALLY ARE SOMETHING ELSE.
THE GIRLS WERE TALKING ABOUT YOU.
YANAI-SENPAI IS...
COOL BUT TOO PERFECT TO APPROACH
BYE, YANAI-SENPAI.
BYE.
Eeeek! I talked to him! ♡

CITY LIBRARY
I WANT TO BE TAKASHI YANAI.
THEN I CAN BE GOOD AT STUDIES AND HAVE ALL THE WOMEN I WANT.
Damn it!
JUST SHUT UP AND COPY.
I HAVE CRAM SCHOOL RIGHT AFTER.
OH, FINE.
BRRRR
YOU'VE GOT SUCH A CUTE GIRLFRIEND IN THE OTHER SCHOOL
REALLY YOU DON'T HAVE ANY ISSUES, DO YOU?
SORRY I GOTTA GET TO THE CRAM SCHOOL
I GOTTA RUN I'M SORRY
Miku Kusuda
Today
Today's no good? We can't see each other again? I miss you!! Oh well Call me!
YOU ARE PERFECT
NOT REALLY

So I kept trying harder...
...and the expectation got higher and higher.
By the time I realized it, my image had run ahead of me.
Then it was too late not to keep up the appearance.
I was just...
I'LL TEXT YOU LATER.
...a little more serious, shy, and competitive than most.
BRRRR
Now it's too late to do anything about it.
Sorry I was studying I have a text tomorrow
BEEP
OH, SHIT.
I forgot
Miku
Are you awake?
Why didn't you text me?
How could you?!
Just kidding
I'm not mad
I'll wait for you
REPLY...
really?
BEEP
Which subject?
Good luck! I'm here for you
I have a home ec class tomorrow
Meat bun
If it turns out well
I'd love you to try it
Tomorrow
BEEP

BRRR
My test
The CD you le
really like the th
ong♪ Oh, and..
Oh BTW, I found
the shoes you
were talking about in
Omotesandou
Do you want to go
check them out
hen you are off your
n school? When-
ou got time
Math? That's hard
My high school
doesn't have tests too
often. (?_?) It's not
really that good of a
school. The last time
I had to take a test.
The movie we saw a while
back, it was on TV
last night
Did you watch it?
I end up crying
single every time
My Dad was
I'm sorry.
I'll talk to you later.
beep
...
chirp
chirp
chirp
SEE
YOU
LATER

Again...
YANAI-KUN...
YOU DON'T LIKE ME THAT MUCH.
THAT'S NOT TRUE...
I text her back and I try to make time to see her.
I don't get why she's so upset...
YOU DON'T TEXT ME AND WHEN YOU DO YOUR REPLIES ARE SHORT,
ALSO, YOU DON'T USE ANY EMOTI-CONS...
Emoticons?
IF I'M BOTHERING YOU, YOU CAN JUST SAY SO!
BUT...
Is that impor-tant?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I THINK!
IT'S JUST
...I'M JUST NOT VERY GOOD AT THAT STUFF.
CHATS AND TEXTING AND ALL THAT.
I CAN'T TALK ON THE PHONE EVERY DAY EITHER.
THERE REALLY ISN'T THAT MUCH TO TALK ABOUT
tears...
HOW COULD YOU!
SHE'S

I'M SORRY...
WHAT?
IT'S FINE! IT'S OVER!
I'M ALWAYS WORRIED, IT'S SO TIRING!
I HAD A CRUSH ON YOU FOR SO LONG,
BUT YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND GIRLS AT ALL!
patter patter patter
I HAD BEEN WON-DERING...
BUT YOU'RE JUST LOOKS!

JUST LOOKS!
JUST LOOKS!
JUST LOOKS!
JUST LOOKS!
JUST LOOKS!
JUST LOOKS!
I'M HANDING YOU BACK THE TEST.
YOU AGAIN, YOUR TEST RESULTS ARE THE SAME
100
I LIKE STUDYING
THE MORE I STUDY, THE BETTER RESULT I GET.
And it won't betray me!
?
BYE, YANAI-SENPAI
KON KON
WAH!
BYE.
SMASH
Dog turd
PLOP
...
Why do I feel so empty?
I am a total loser...
wipe wipe

...feels as if my whole being is being denied.
Being dumped...
I'm falling apart.
MY GUT IS BEING RIPPED OUT.
Ugh!
Ooo
UGH
UGH
UGH

Guys like that are popular.
Girls like guys who know how to handle them.
In the end...
HE'S IN SOPHOMORE YEAR...
What was his name?
HE'S GOT AN AIR ABOUT HIM
IT TOOK ME ...
...SIX MONTHS TO HOLD HER HAND.
Pretty obvious to other guys.
He's trouble.
Be careful
Girls can be pretty dense.
Or do they know that and don't care?
If there is next time...

CLANG
If I were to get dumped by a girl I really liked...
I...
...don't think I could get over it.
EEEK!
FLINCH
BUSH
I KNEW THESE LILIES HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOU!

AH...
I'M SORRY.
I'M REALLY SORRY.
WE NEED TOWELS.
YIKES!
I startled you
I...
I'M SORRY!
HUH?
TOO MANY SORRIES
Hmmm
IT FEELS LIKE A REJECTION SOMEHOW
Squish
UMM...
SHOULDN'T YOU BE SAYING "THANKS" RATHER THAN "SORRY?"
I mean it was me who startled you
SORRY...

"Thanks for the text"
If I could have been like that...
"Thanks for falling for me"
...things might have turned out differently.
Sorry Next time
I think it put pressure on both of us.
No I'm not mad
I'M ONE TO TALK, REALLY..
I used that word a lot myself
?

WHEN I FOUND THESE LILIES, I'D ALWAYS THINK,
EVERY WEEK, IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM
I can go get another vase
"WHAT A NICE SMELL."
THANK YOU.

SNAP SNAP
MY MOTHER...
SNAP
...REALLY LIKES LILIES.
SHE GROWS A LOT THEM AT HOME.
STAR DUST, HINOMOTO, MONTE ROSA...
?
THESE ARE ALL TYPES OF LILIES...
BOOK STORE
LILY
Apricot wave
White type
Rothorn
AH!
APRICOT WAVE!

WOW!
YOU'RE RIGHT!
SMILE
YOU SMILED FOR THE FIRST TIME.
WHAT, ?
YOU SHOULD DO THAT ALL THE TIME.
WHEN...
I WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL...
A BOY IN THE SAME CLASS SAID "YOUR SMILE IS GROSS"...
I GUESS I WAS BEING BULLIED...
BUT EVER SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN UNABLE TO SMILE IN FRONT OF PEOPLE...
I'VE NEVER BEEN THAT SOCIAL ANYWAY.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO ACT...

IF YOU ALTER YOUR MEMORY A LITTLE ...
...NO ONE'S GOING TO GET HURT FROM IT, YOU KNOW
LIKE THAT'S POSSI-BLE!
THAT'S HOW YOU SHOULD INTER-PRET IT.
THAT BOY ...
THE BOY WHO SAID YOU WERE GROSS, I BET HE LIKED YOU.
Because you don't look gross.
HUH?!
WELL, I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF SUCH A REHAB MYSELF.
HUH?
UMM .. I WAS A BIT DOWN.
I WONDERED IF I WAS A USELESS LOSER .
IT'S EASY TO FEEL MORE AND MORE NEGATIVE.
BUT ONCE I'VE FIGURED OUT WHAT I'VE DONE WRONG,
THEN THE REST CAN BE INTERPRETED POSITIVELY.
You can't be perfect all a sudden.
BECAUSE ...
...I CAN'T STAND...
...NOT MOVING FORWARD.
Your ripped-up pride...
...can be reconstructed slowly day by day.

I NEVER KNEW YOU COULD LOSE YOUR CONFIDENCE, TOO.
OF COURSE I DO. Sometimes.
Not always
I MEAN, I CAN'T BE THAT BAD CAN'T BE THAT BAD CAN'T BE THAT BAD...
Brainwashing in progress
MUMBLE MUMBLE
ALSO THERE IS THE ISSUE OF COMPATIBILITY, RIGHT?
I mean c'mon Lons?
Can't let go
SURE ...
THANK YOU...
...FOR TRYING TO CHEER ME UP.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.

Slowly...
...eroding.
AH.
SOPHO-MORE GIRLS ARE DOING THEIR P.E.
MAN... MADOKA SETOUCHI. SHE'S SO CUTE!
I WISH I COULD DATE HER.
I WANT TO TOUCH HER HAIR.
It's sinking into the hole in my chest.
It's different from excite-ment...
What was that?
?
HM?

THERE'S NO WAY I COULD LIKE SOMEONE I DON'T KNOW.
YEAH. FIRST YOU GOTTA BE FRIENDS.
That's so childish
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN TALKED TO HER. HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU LIKE HER?
IT'S THE FEEL!
SETOUCHI? ISN'T THAT THE ONE WHO IS SUPPOSEDLY THE CUTEST GIRL IN THE SOPHOMORE YEAR?
KOIKE SHE IS WAY OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE
SHUT UP!
THEN.
WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF "LOVE?"
Eh? That..
Oh, I got this one w.o.m.
THOSE NEVER LAST
WAVE LENGTH?
Hummm
YOU CAN CLICK INSTANTLY SOMETIMES
WELL, I CAN SEE IT.
SOME PEOPLE JUST HAVE THE IR... SOMETHING BOUT THEM...
EXCITED, HORNY, DIRTY THOUGHTS.
In other words
I WANT TO TOUCH HER, I WANT TO KISS HER, I WANT TO DO HER
Yeah you guys suck
WOW! GUYS SUCK.
I don't want to talk to you for at least a week.
YOU SUCK!
Ummm
DEFINITION...
WELL, THAT HAS TO BE ..

FOR ME...
I WANT TO KNOW MORE, I WANT TO GET CLOSER
BUT I'M AFRAID
THAT WOULD BE IT.
THE MINUTE I KNOW I LIKE SOME-ONE,
ALL MY CONFIDENCE ...
...JUST DISAP-PEARS.
I can totally under-stand that!
I don't know what mine is.
What are these feelings?
I want to touch her. I want to be sure.
I want to know her. I want to get close to her.
But I'm afraid.
But I don't want to get hurt.

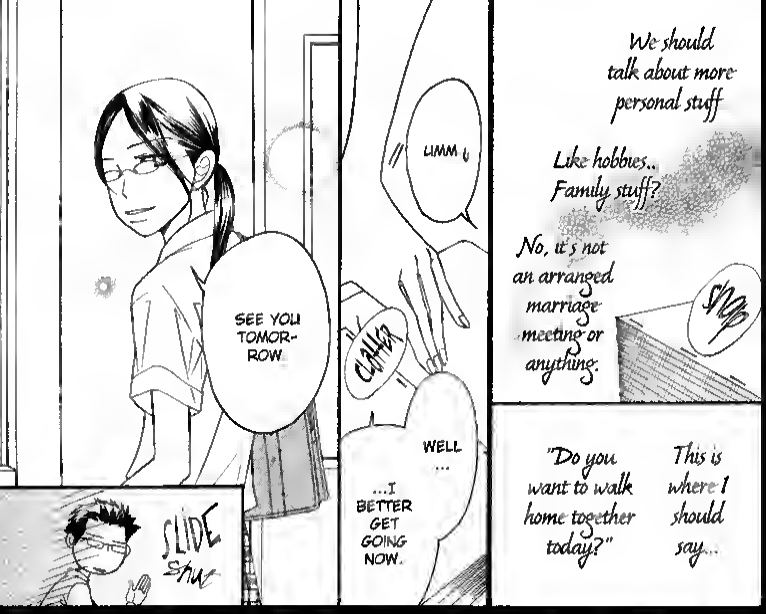
Inconsistency. Turmoil.
Self preservation. Self sacrifice.
Everything crashes.
MY SISTER SAYS THAT ...
...UNREQUITED LOVE IS NOT REALLY LOVE.
SMACK
ONCE YOU TOUCH A REAL PERSON ...
...YOU WILL HAVE THE REAL EMOTIONS.
SMACK SMACK SMACK
IT'S JUST INFATUATION WITH AN IMAGE YOU CREATED IN YOUR HEAD
STUPID PRIDE LIKE THAT ...
...WOULD TO BE THROWN OUT.
I DON'T WANT TO GET HURT. IT'S EMBARRASSING IF SHE REJECTS ME. IT'S UNCOOL TO BE SERIOUS...
BUT...
IT'S LIKE A SUICIDE TO CONFESS.
SMACK

Haruka Origuchi
I killed someone again Sorry She is a quiet and very plain girl How she does the impersonation of "Tsurube" is not clear yet If I have to, I'll think about it I'll try doing it myself first

IT'S HARD TO TALK PRECISELY BECAUSE WE ARE GUYS
Damn it
I understand that.
THEY SAY GIRLS LIKE ASSERTIVE GUYS
BUT THAT IS EASIER SAID THAN DONE

It would be embarrassing to be turned down.
Indeed.
OK!
bink
THEN
PLEASE TOTAL THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY FROM EACH CLASS BY NEXT WEEK

Origuchi?
You gotta be kidding me...
GROOP
WAIT...
TO WHOM?
DOES THAT MEAN I'M GOING TO CONFESS?
If that were to happen, I don't think I could recover again.
The flimsy pride that I'm trying to rebuild...
...could totally fall a-part.
...AND ATE ALL THE GEORGIA
YESTER-DAY, A DOG GOT INTO OUR YARD
She's so not my type!
We would be a couple of four eyes!
All we ever talk about are lilies.
Ah ha ha! You are a smart one!
IT WAS A SHOCK.
SHOP SHOP
SHOP
Huh.
ISN'T GEORGIA A KIND OF EASTER LILY?
THAT'S RIGHT. You are amazing!


SEE YOU TOMORROW.
LMM
CALL?
WELL...
...I BETTER GET GOING NOW.
SLIDE
We should talk about more personal stuff
Like hobbies... Family stuff?
No, it's not an arranged marriage meeting or anything.
SIGH
"Do you want to walk home together today?"
This is where I should say...

"Hey, did you hear?"
"Yanai-senpai confessed to Origuchi-san!"
AHAHA!
"Are you serious?"
"She dumped him!"
"That's hilarious!"

"Seriously!"
"Origuchi doesn't seem to be interested in guys."
"Forever an innocent girl... you know?"

I have a foreboding of doom...
Ah...
CRUMBLE CRUMBLE
I CAN HEAR IT CRUMBLING.
o O

"Yanai-senpai is such a loser!"
"Of course!"
"Because he's got..."
"...nothing beyond his looks."
Jump
Flower festival?
Flower Festival
12th-29th
AH... ORIGUCHI MIGHT LIKE THAT...
Completely useless pride.
I'm 98% pride.
Sigh
GIVE ME A BREAK!
Whew!

NEXT SUNDAY ...
IF I ASKED HER, WOULD SHE COME?
LIKE I WOULD ...
OH... (
turn
MIKU-CHAN.

I'M SORRY.
THANK YOU...
NO... THAT'S NOT IT.
THAT IS NOT RIGHT. WHAT I MEAN IS..
...FOR LOVING ME.
ME, TOO
I SAID HORRIBLE THINGS TO YOU.
THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING.
shake shake
shake

Poster
I don't know anything about her.
I GUESS...
I COULD AT LEAST ASK.
So I want to know.
I'm scared...
...of the unknown future...
and everything
WHAT? THIS SUNDAY?
Flower
Flower Festiv
12th 29th July

I'LL GO! FOR SURE!
IT'S FINE! I'M COMING!
I'm so excited!
throb
So she can make a face like that...
SLIDE
AH!
SORRY, I GOTTA GO
I'M STILL AT SCHOOL. I'LL CALL YOU LATER.
beep
YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO USE CELL ON SCHOOL GROUNDS.
SORRY ...

WAS THAT YOUR BOY-FRIEND ...?
drop
WELL,
YES.
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
CRUMBLE

click
TAKASHI
...
RING RING
RING RING
Gift
Origuchi Family

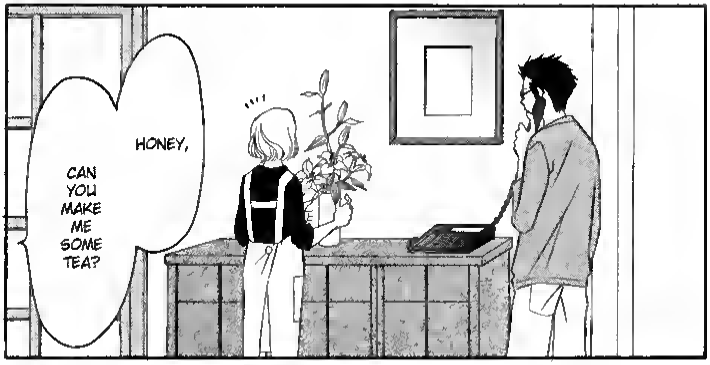
YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL!
SOMEONE FROM YOUR HIGH SCHOOL, A WOMAN NAMED SUGA-SAN.
Gift
Gift
Origuchi Family
CLUNK
HELLO ?
OH, SORRY FOR CALLING YOU OUT OF THE BLUE. I'M SUGA. I WAS A YEAR BEHIND YOU IN HIGH SCHOOL.
I WANTED TO ASK YOU ..
.. ABOUT HARUKA ORIGUCHI, WHO PASSED AWAY A FEW DAYS AGO

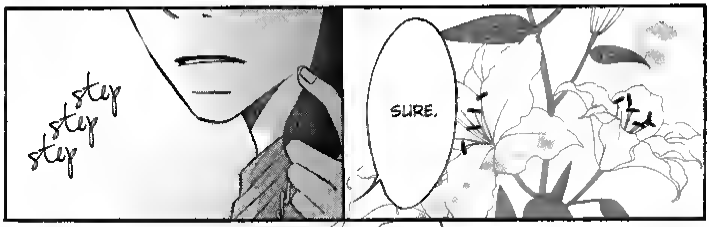
ORI-GUCHI ...?
YEAH.
WE WERE BOTH IN THE CLASS REP-RESENTATIVE COMMITTEE,
BUT I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING
WE WEREN'T EVEN CLOSE.
SORRY?
NO. WE NEVER DATED ...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
throb
throb
ONCE WE BOTH QUIT THE COM-MITTEE, WE HARDLY EVER SAW EACH OTHER AGAIN
OF COURSE ONCE WE GRADU-ATED.
...I NEVER SAW HER AGAIN
NOT UNTIL ...
...HER FUNERAL.
"Hello? Yanai-senpai?"
"Do you remember Oreguchi-san?"
"She passed away..."

"Oh, Yanai!"
"Yanai-senpai!"
jerk
In the crowd,
I prayed for her just like everyone else
Who was I trying to impress...?

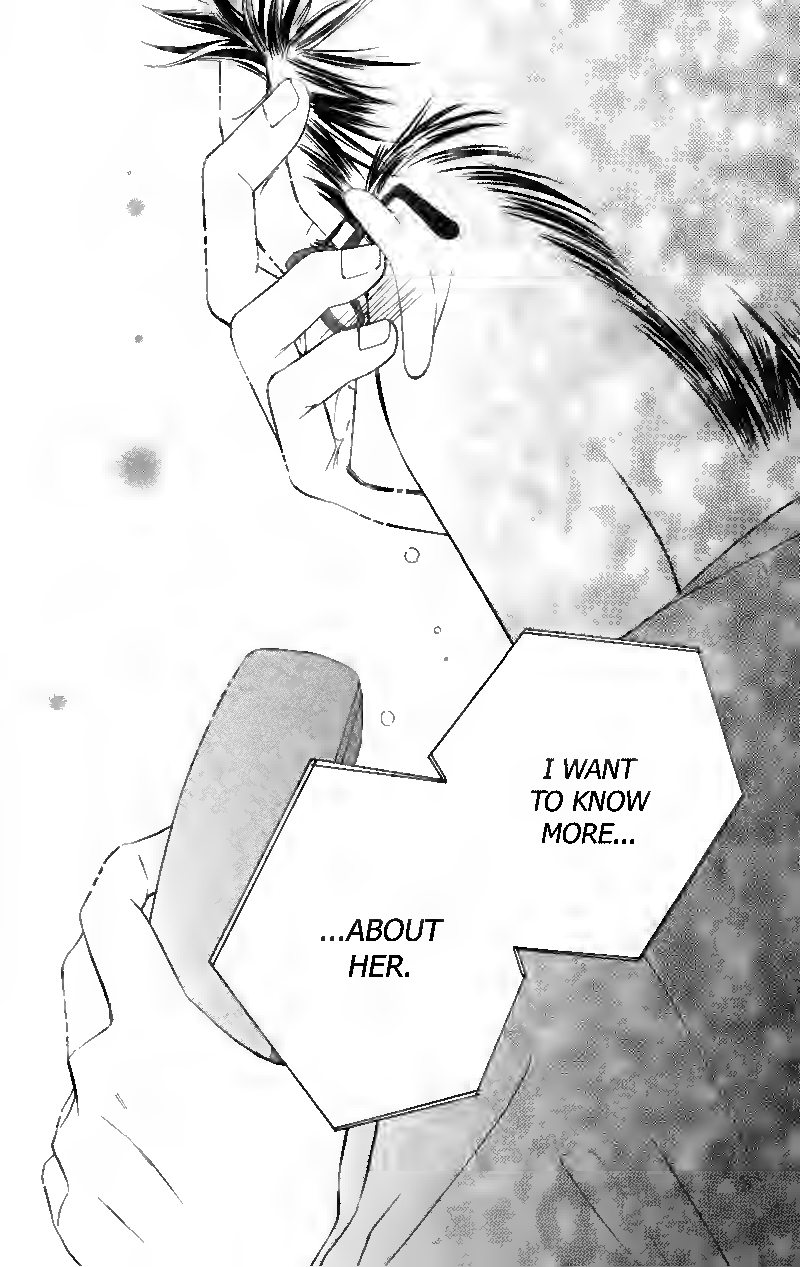
I probably...
...completely misunderstood the meaning of that pride.
THUD

Piece①


HONEY,
CAN YOU MAKE ME SOME TEA?


stay stay stay
SURE.

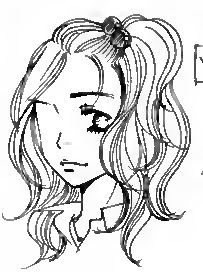
WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE
...FOR US TO MEET?
IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING, PLEASE TELL ME.
UMMM... ANY-THING.
HELLO, YANAI-SENPAI?


I WANT TO KNOW MORE...
...ABOUT HER.

Where does it come from? This desire to know...

WHY DO YOU THINK I HAD FEELINGS FOR ORIGUCHI-SAN?
I never told anyone.
OH. IT'S NOT ME, BUT MY CLASS-MATE...
.. NARUMI.
NARUMI!! You're late!
Yawn
Finally here!
BUMP
Oops.
Sorry.

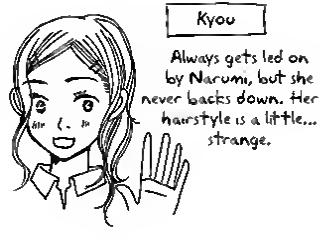
NICE TO MEET YOU!
LIKE-WISE...
So we are gathered...
...as our desire became one.



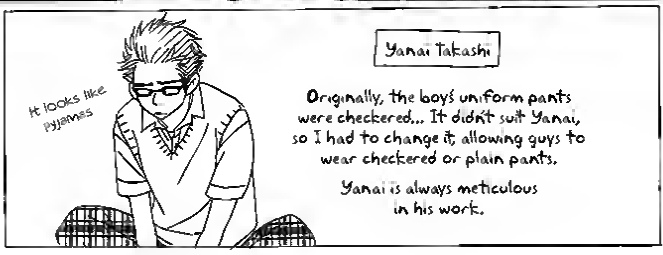
Yoshioka from class 2.

Poor girl who kept getting hurt by Narumi. But then again, it was sort of her own fault, too.

Story3


Kyou
Always gets led on by Narumi, but she never backs down. Her hairstyle is a little... strange.

RECENTLY
ORIGUCHI HARUKA, A CLASSMATE OF MINE FROM HIGH SCHOOL PASSED AWAY
Haruka was carrying this baby
HARUKA'S MUM ASKED ME TO FIND OUT WHO HARUKA'S EX-BOYFRIEND WAS
Wow
I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE, BUT SHE LOOKED VERY HAPPY WHEN SHE ANSWERED THE PHONE.
PROBABLY
THE ONE SHE WAS TALKING TO ON THE PHONE WAS HER BOYFRIEND?
—THEN,
'Sure, I'll go! I'll definitely go!'
'This Sunday?'


Yanai Takashi
It looks like pyjamas
Originally, the boys uniform pants were checkered... It didn't suit Yanai, so I had to change it, allowing guys to wear checkered or plain pants.
Yanai is always meticulous in his work.

WHY DOES HARUKA'S MUM WANT TO FIND HARUKA'S BOYFRIEND,
HUH?
EH DUMP
Isn't it strange?
WHOM SHE DATED FOR ONLY SIX MONTHS, AFTER HARUKA'S DEATH?
'She was pregnant'
—UM...
I HAD SOME DOUBTS ABOUT HARUKA HAVING A BOYFRIEND,
SINCE SHE WAS ALWAYS SO PLAIN AND UNNOTICEABLE...
—WHAT IN THE WORLD DID HER BOYFRIEND DO?
NOW EVERYTHING IS SLOWLY COMING UP TO SURFACE.
PLEASE COME AND CHOOSE WHAT YOU WISH FROM THE DISPLAY.
EXCUSE ME. WHERE IS THE CAKE MENU?
OKAY.
Cake~
HEY! NARUMI!
Can't you read the atmosphere?
I WANT TO EAT SOME SWEETS.
THAT IS...
CAN I TELL SENPAI?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

NISHIDA REMI
090877Axxxx
RING RING~
THOSE GUYS LIKES SWEETS?
AH, NO I'M FINE.
OH?
HUH?
AND YOU?
CAKE
Tsk.
HELLO? MIZUHO, IT'S ME.
ARE YOU FREE TONIGHT? LET'S GO TO A GOUKON! A GOUKON!
Goukon?
NO. I'LL PASS
You go ahead.
BUT, WHY~?! I THOUGHT YOU BROKE UP WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND!
Daiki was it?
YOU CAN'T BE DEPRESSED FOREVER
You have to live your life!
I'M NOT REALLY DEPRESSED OR ANYTHING
HMM~.
Really?

EXCUSE ME.
IS THERE A CAKE WITHOUT ANY EGGS IN IT?

THAT ASIDE CAN YOU MAKE SOME TIME FOR ME TOMORROW?
Good timing.
I WANT TO ASK YOU ABOUT HARUKA
WHAT? Haruka?

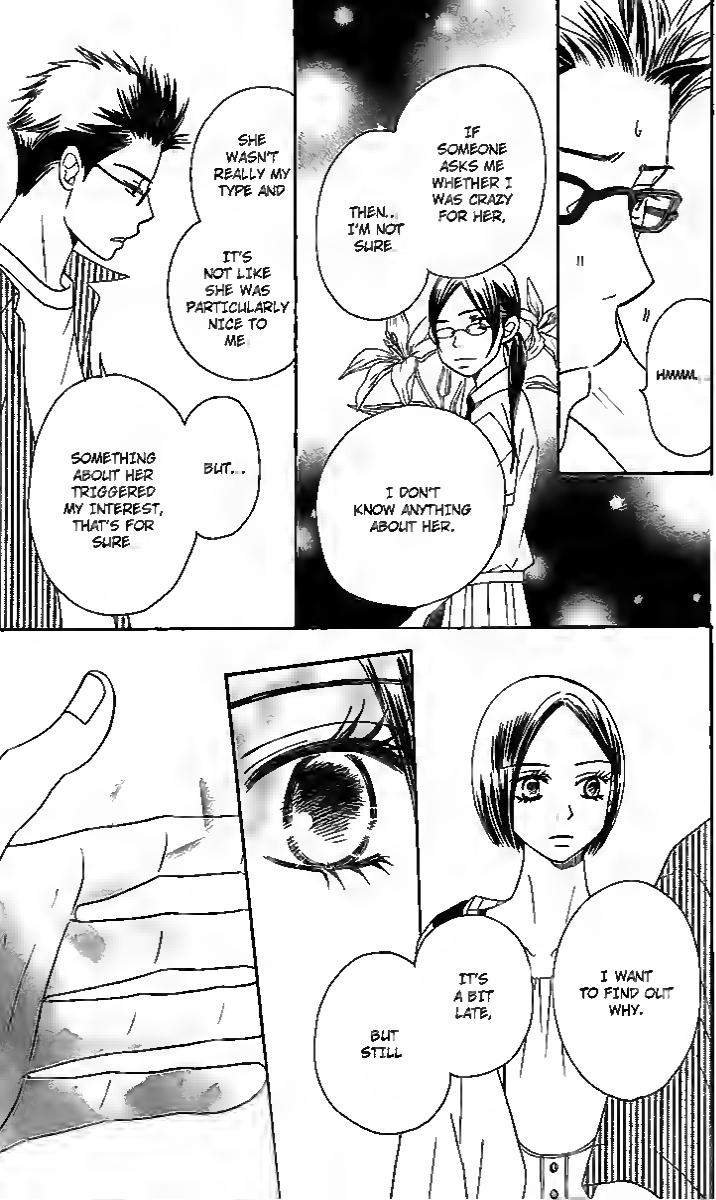
Hmm
Yes?
Ah, I see.
I CAN'T EAT EGGS
Hmm
...
...YOU,
I'LL HAVE THE CHEESE-CAKE AND AN ICED COFFEE
BUT I LOVE CREAM.
IS IT ALLERGIES? IF YOU CAN'T EAT EGG, DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT EATING A CAKE.
Hum~
Ah, is that so.?

WHY DID YOU THINK THAT I LIKED HARUKA?
A COUPLE OF TIMES.
I SAW BOTH OF YOU TOGETHER IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM.
DID YOU THINK YOU HID YOUR EMOTIONS WELL?
I got embarrassed just watching you.
YOU WERE SO OBVIOUS!
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TODAY.

YOU CAME OUT ALL THE WAY!..
It's nothing
Come quickly
SERIOUSLY~ JUST GO AHEAD!
I'll take the next one.
MIZUHO, THE BUS IS LEAVING!
Why is he in such a hurry?
VRRRMMM
= Eye sye
SSSSSSH
I'M SORRY. HE IS A BIT SPONTANEOUS.
He's always like that
I THINK HE'S MORE THAN SPONTANEOUS.
More like does whatever he pleases
WHAT'S THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOU AND HIM?
HE WAS A FAMOUS LADY-KILLER
WE'RE JUST OLD CLASS-MATES
THAT'S A RELIEF

VROOM...
HE IS SO...
INDIFFERENT AND LACKS HUMANITY
IT'S A LITTLE SCARY
VROOM...
HE
HAS A BAD VIBE
...AH,
WHAT AM I SAYING?
It's just my opinion
DON'T WORRY, I DON'T LIKE THAT KIND OF A GUY
WELL,
ALTHOUGH I'M NOT SURE WHAT 'LIKE' IS SUPPOSED TO MEAN
I think I'm a bit slow
Evil Flowers
evilflowers.com

I'm not really depressed or anything
In the end, you didn't really like me.
I thought you broke up with your boyfriend?
HAHA
I THOUGHT THAT
I REALLY LIKED DAIKI SO IT WAS QUITE A SHOCK
AND I WAS ABLE TO ACT AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED
BUT IT DIDN'T AFFECT MY EVERYDAY LIFE
I WAS ABLE TO EAT AS USUAL
NOW I'M REALLY UNSURE ABOUT MY FEELINGS.
MIZUHO?
AH ..
It's nothing.
...WHAT ABOUT YOU, SENPAI?
DID YOU...
REALLY LIKE HARUKA?
HMM?


HMMM...
IF SOMEONE ASKS ME WHETHER I WAS CRAZY FOR HER,
THEN.. I'M NOT SURE
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HER.
BUT..
SOMETHING ABOUT HER TRIGGERED MY INTEREST, THAT'S FOR SURE
SHE WASN'T REALLY MY TYPE AND
IT'S NOT LIKE SHE WAS PARTICULARLY NICE TO ME
I WANT TO FIND OUT WHY.
IT'S A BIT LATE,
BUT STILL

AND IGNORANT OF OUR OWN FEELINGS.
WE ARE RATIONAL,
TIMID
WE ARE
SO I'LL HELP YOU AS WELL
THE FACT THAT BOTH OF US
WISH TO CHANGE THESE PERSONALITY TRAITS
WHAT? HARUKA?
COFFEE
IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO FIND OUT SOMETHING
ABOUT HER THAT NO ONE ELSE KNEW.
I GUESS
SIMILAR.
BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
SHE LIKED OR A BOY FRIEND
HARUKA MUST HAVE HAD SOMEONE
MAYBE

WHAT? ARE YOU GOING TO ASK EACH PERSON FROM OUR HIGH SCHOOL CLASS?
Who should I ask next?
I GUESS IT'S NOT EASILY OBTAINABLE INFORMATION
YEAH,
ISN'T THAT TOO MUCH?
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.
It start by asking people who still live with their parents.
SLURP
IS THAT SO..?
YES, I AGREE
BUT I JUST HAD A CHANGE OF HEART, YOU KNOW?
AND MEANING-LESS.
IT'S INSEN-SITIVE
DELIBER-ATELY FROM HER MUM.
ANYWAYS, HARUKA MUST'VE HIDDEN IT
IT'S USELESS MEDDLING IN HER AFFAIRS.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU
FINDING OUT ABOUT IT NOW AFTER SHE WENT THROUGH ALL THAT...
It's too much.
OKAY. I'LL LET YOU KNOW IF I REMEMBER ANYTHING
AH, RIGHT! ASIDE FROM THAT—!
SURE THANKS.
HMMM.
Is that so?

LET'S ALL GO TO THE HOT SPRINGS TOGETHER!
LAST TIME I WAS TALKING WITH KYOU AND WE CAME UP WITH THE IDEA—HOW'S 1 NIGHT 2 DAYS?!
AND I MET A REALLY NICE GUY FROM THE GOUKON YESTERDAY!
I HAVE SO MUCH TO TELL YOU...
AH...
Yeah.
TO BE HONEST
I CAN ONLY THINK ABOUT HARUKA RIGHT NOW...
SURE IF WE CAN ALL FIT OUR SCHEDULES TOGETHER, LET'S GO!
THEN I'LL CONTACT YOU LATER.
Thanks for today
PUSH
...YOU SAY THAT NOW
BUT IF THERE'S NO URGENT BUSINESS,
YOU NEVER CONTACT FIRST.
Pardon?

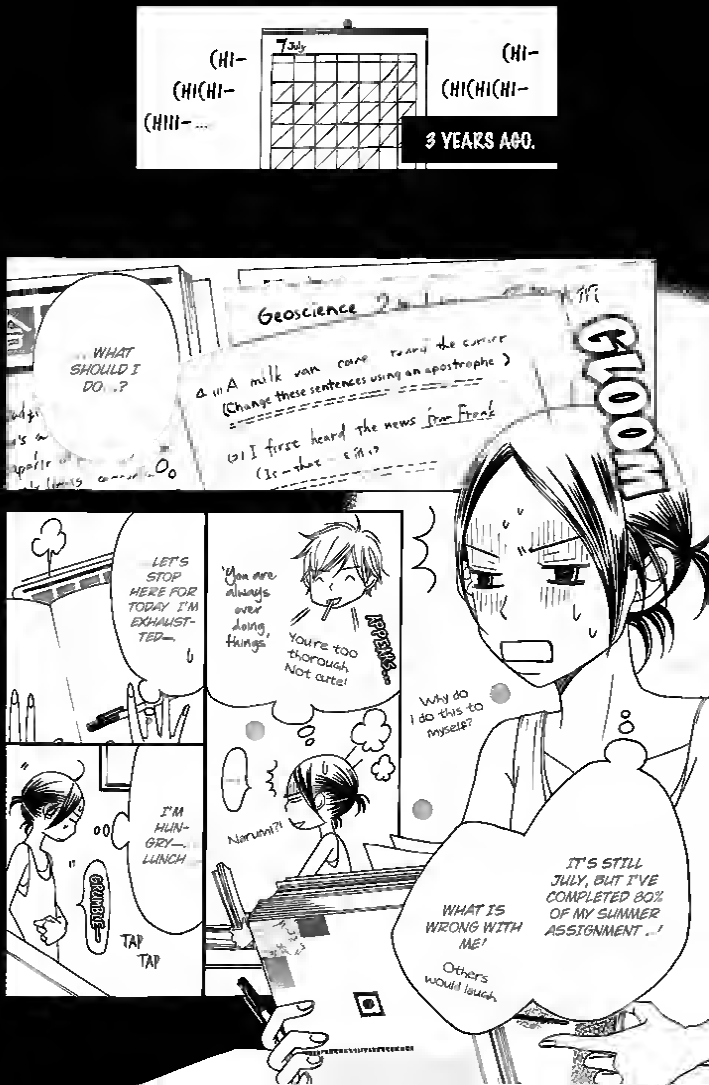
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HER, REALLY.
BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING? PLAYING INSPECTOR?
I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW
I SHOULD DISTANCE MYSELF FROM OTHERS.
IT'S NOTHING
THEN, BYE NOW!
HARUKA? NO WAY
WHAT KIND OF A GUY WOULD TAKE INTEREST IN HER?
AH, MAYBE NARUMI?
WHAT...?
ORIGUCHI HARUKA?
HARUKA? OH, THE LONER GIRL?
APART FROM THAT, I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT HER...
WAS, WAS I TOO COLD.?
SOMETIMES

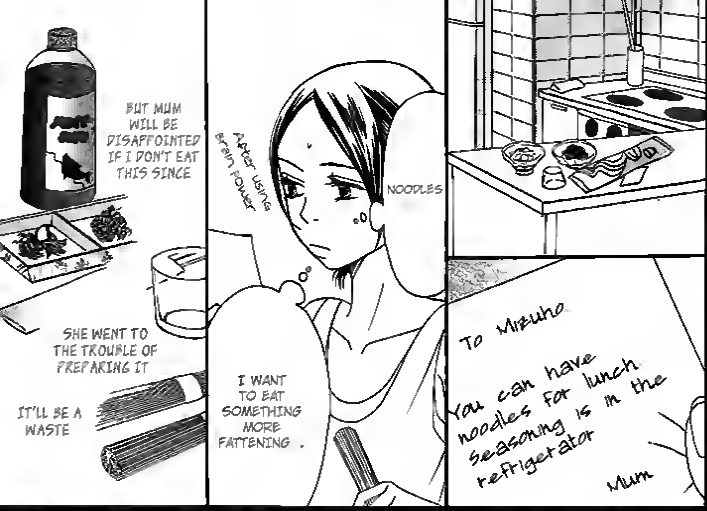
CHIKADA
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, RUINING MY DAY? YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY TO ASK ABOUT THAT KIND OF THING?
WHAT? HARUKA? I DON'T KNOW THAT LONER.
Ummm
I KNOW GUYS WHO HATED HER.
CHIKADA AND ITO FROM SOCCER CLUB USED TO SAY THAT SHE'S SICKENING AND REVOLTING
SLAM
SUGAHARA
HARUKA? I DON'T KNOW.
I NEVER SPOKE TO HER ONCE, AND DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HER
Sigh
I SEE....

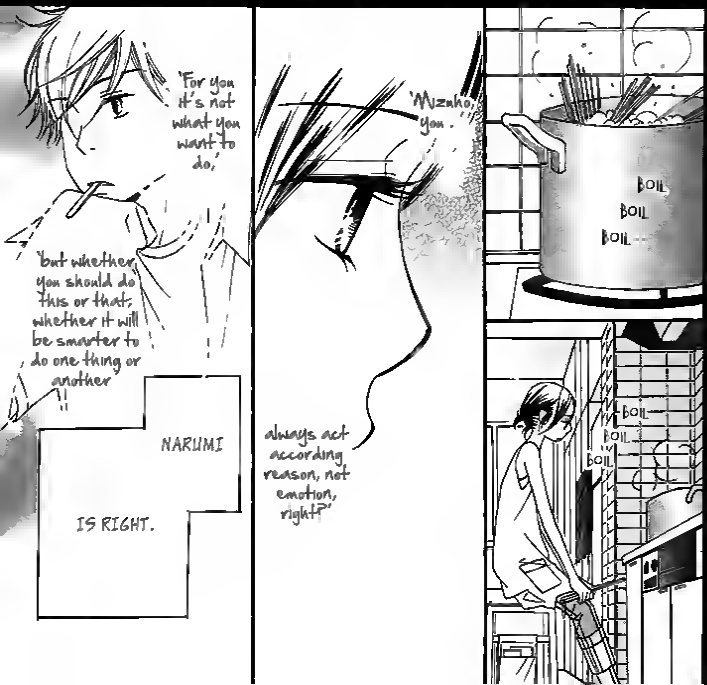
WORDS ARE SHARP AS KNIVES.
'It's insensitive and meaningless.'
I'M STARTING TO GET A HEADACHE.
'It's useless meddling into her affairs'
'You never contact first'
'The loner girl?'
'I don't remember anything about her'
'I know guys who hated her.'
'What are you doing, ruining my days?'
'I don't know anything about her'
SUGA
Sigh I'm so tired.
Haa
I'M HOME...
Ah, it seems like Anna isn't back yet
FOR SOME REASON

Munch.
To Mizuho
Welcome home. Warm up the Food For dinner.
Mum
FLIP
FALL! OUT
BAR

MEANS HAVING BUTTERFLIES,
A SENSE OF STABILITY,
GIVING STRENGTH AND SATISFACTION,
BUT
IF LIKING SOMEONE
DURING THOSE DAYS
I WAS CONSCIOUS OF EVERYTHING NARUMI DID.
THEN THAT MEANS
I NEVER LOVED NARUMI.
(HI-
(HI(HI-
(HIII-


CHI-
CHI(CHI-
CHIII-...
7July
CHI-
CHI(CHI(CHI-
3 YEARS AGO.
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
Geoscience
(A milk van came nearly the current
(Change these sentences using an apostrophe)
(b) I first heard the news from Frank
(Is that
GLOOM
LET'S STOP HERE FOR TODAY I'M EXHAUST-TED—
You are always over doing things
You're too thorough. Not arte!
APPEND
Why do I do this to myself?
I'M HUN-GRY—. LUNCH
GRUMBLE
TAP TAP
Naruni?!
WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME!
Others would laugh.
IT'S STILL JULY, BUT I'VE COMPLETED 80% OF MY SUMMER ASSIGNMENT..!


BUT MUM WILL BE DISAPPOINTED IF I DON'T EAT THIS SINCE
SHE WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF PREPARING IT
IT'LL BE A WASTE
After using brain power
NOODLES
I WANT TO EAT SOMETHING MORE FATTENING.
To Mizuho
You can have noodles for lunch seasoning is in the refrigerator
Mum


'For you it's not what you want to do,'
'but whether you should do this or that; whether it will be smarter to do one thing or another'
NARUMI IS RIGHT.
'Mizuho, you always act according reason, not emotion, right?'
BOIL
BOIL
BOIL
BOIL
BOIL
BOIL

I THINK ABOUT EVERYTHING LOGICALLY
RATHER THAN CONCENTRATING ON MY FEELINGS
I'VE BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE I WAS LITTLE
AM I STUPID? WHAT AM I DOING?
I'm dumbfounded.
CLICK
...FOR SOME REASON I'M GETTING ANGRY
Shit
MONEY
GRAB
ON A HOT DAY LIKE THIS
CURRY
I FEEL LIKE EATING CURRY
PANT.
I'LL JUST ACT ON INSTINCT
I'LL EAT WHATEVER I WANT!
SCOFF
AH.
BURNING CRACKLE
SIZZLE SIZZLE
BE IT FRIED CHICKEN, HAMBURGER, FRIED RICE, OR A FORK CUTLET!
FINE, I'LL DO IT ! I'LL GO EAT JUNK FOOD . !
I'LL EAT CALORIE-RICH AND FATTENING FOOD UNTIL I'M STUFFED ...!
STRIDES
STRIDES
STRIDES
STRIDES

TADA
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN FINISH IT?
IT'LL BE HUGE.
My instinct is telling me so.
YES!! DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT!
urry and rice with a fried cutlet, LARGE SIZE
950 AMA-ZING
SUPER HOT!
CHILLI PEPPER curry and ri
68
I'LL HAVE THE CURRY CUTLET, EXTRA LARGE SERVING.
WOW
It's huge!
Woah!
IT'S OKAY, DON'T GET DISCOURAGED!
SCOOP
Munch

WOW~!
MEAT!
I can taste the ingredients to the fullest!
OH MY GOSH, OH MY GOSH!
It's so delicious!
Welcome!
MAYBE IT'S AN UNKNOWN GOURMET RESTAURANT?
Chef, you're the best!
WHAT DO I DO?
I FEEL KIND OF HAPPY
MUNCH MUNCH
MAYBE I'M AN IDIOT.
NICE AND WARM
FEELING HAPPY JUST BECAUSE OF THIS CURRY CUTLET,
AHH—
Hey~♡
MUNCH
So yummy
BUT IT'S SO YUMMY ♡

SPLURT
Hey are you okay?! (COUGH (COUGH
UGH.
(OUGH,
(OUGH, BLARRGH
Hey here's some water
Ahaha-
NARU...
PPPT.

HA HA HAH AHA
HEY—
STOP LAUGHING ALREADY!
WHAT DID I DO..?!
BUT..! SEEING YOU LIKE THAT...!
What's wrong with me eating curry outlet..?
You really like the curry outlet.
HA HA HA
BUAHAHA
Ah my stomach hurts from laughing
THIS IS THE WORST.

I DON'T KNOW
I JUST FEEL HAPPY TODAY
AH AH AHA HA...
PANT
BY THE WAY, WEREN'T YOU HEADING SOMEWHERE?
YOU SAY THAT, BUT MAYBE YOU ARE ON YOUR WAY TO MEET YOUR DATE?
I DON'T SAY LIES LIKE THAT! I DON'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND.
My stomach still hurts...
NO. Just wandering around
DID HE BREAK UP WITH YOSHIOKA?
AH, BUT HE SAID THAT SHE WASN'T HIS GIRLFRIEND
THERE'S SO MANY THINGS TO LECTURE HIM ABOUT
He probably has a girl
BUT TODAY, EVERYTHING JUST DOESN'T MATTER.
BECAUSE I FEEL HAPPY
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BYE NOW!
ONE OF THESE DAYS,"
YOU'LL BE IN GREAT TROUBLE BECAUSE OF GIRLS
I'LL GO BUY FRENCH FRIES ON MY WAY HOME~!
La
French fries~!
YOU WHO DECIDED TO EAT CURRY CUTLET ON A WHIM
AND ME WHO HAPPENED TO WANDER INTO THIS NEIGHBOURHOOD
SAW EACH OTHER THROUGH THE WINDOW OF THE CURRY RESTAURANT. WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE PROBABILITY OF THIS COINCIDENCE?
THIS IS A MIRACLE
HUH?
IT'S NOT LIKE WE LIVE IN THE SAME NEIGHBOURHOOD
IT'S A RARE CHANCE TO BUMP INTO EACH OTHER
WOULDN'T IT BE A SHAME
TO PART LIKE THIS?

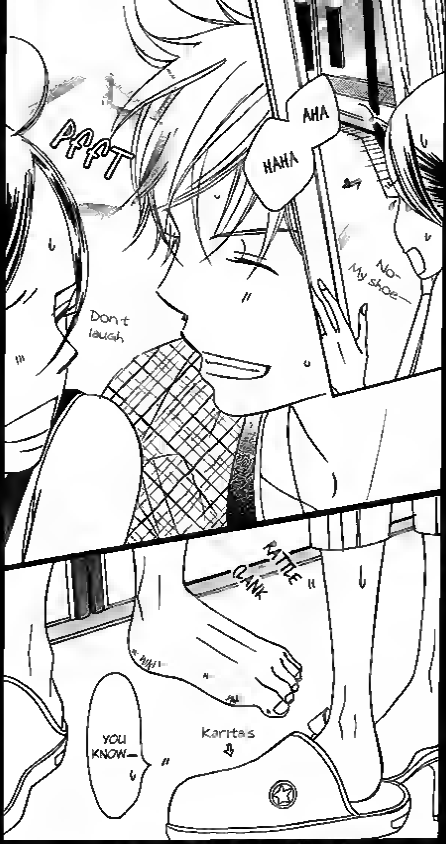
...DO ...DO YOU ALWAYS PICK UP GIRLS LIKE THAT?
It's really corny
DID I EVER TRY TO PICK YOU UP?
LIKE I SAID,
IT'D BE A SHAME TO PART LIKE THIS
ALTHOUGH I WAS KISSED!
I GUESS NOT
HE SEEMS TO HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT
THE CURRY WAS DELICIOUS
I'M ALMOST DONE WITH MY SUMMER BREAK ASSIGNMENT
DO YOU WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE OR NOT?
THE WEATHER IS NICE
WHICH ONE IS IT?
I FEEL GREAT TODAY
DO YOU WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE?

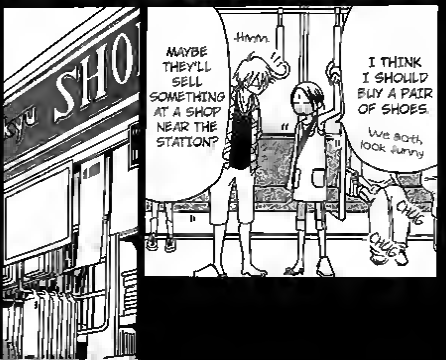
LET'S GO!
SINCE TODAY IS SPECIAL
LET'S SEE. I HAVE 4200 YEN.
HOW MUCH DO YOU HAVE?
I HAVE 26000 YEN.
So around 30000 yen between the two of us.
HMM, WHERE SHALL WE GO—?
WHERE EVER. LET'S JUST SEE WHAT WE CAN BUY.
YOU HAVE QUITE A BIT
A part time job?
WELL—
anywhere
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
LET'S JUST TAKE THE NEXT TRAIN AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS
THE TRAIN IS COMING IN THROUGH THE TRACK NUMBER 2
AH, IT'S HERE!
Run!
OH!
PSSHHH
POP

Nishida Remi

A long time ago, I had a beloved doll called Do-Re-Mis Remi-chan. That somehow became Remi. She's sensitive about being on the chubby side.

After setting up foreshadowing for various things, I found myself frightened over what I should do when I reached the end of the story. I apologize for the slow pace, but please bear with me a while longer. Bye for now!!





They don't sell them here.
...MIZUHO
EXCITED EXCITED
GRIP
DID YOU SEE?!
YEAH?
WHAT?
THAT PUPPY JUST THEN!
IT HAD PINK, YELLOW AND BLACK SPOTS!
LET'S FOLLOW!
I didn't know such a thing existed!
WAIT, WHAT ABOUT OUR TICKET?!
You're going to exit the platform area?
WHAT? JUST FORGET ABOUT IT! Come quick.
WHA-T~?

AH— IT GOT AWAY!
Where did it go?
I'm all sweaty
Man
GENERAL STORE
Ah, a general store
THANKS, for the shoe.
YOU'RE WELCOME—
WHERE WAS THE STATION?
We're lost
SO WHAT? LET'S TAKE THE BUS
WHICH WAY SHOULD WE GO?
DOESN'T MATTER
AH! THEN LET'S TAKE THAT RED BUS!
I LOVE BUSES.
WHY?
I TOOK THE BUS FOR THE FIRST TIME WHEN I WAS YOUNG
BUT I TOOK THE WRONG ONE SO I WAS LOST AND DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

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AND NO FINAL DESTINATIONS, FORGETTING ABOUT THE RETURN TIME
OR TOMORROW'S COMMITMENTS.
WITH NO RULES
BUT AS THE TIME WENT BY,
I STARTED TO GET EXCITED
I STARTED WISHING THAT IT'D CONTINUE ON FOREVER
ONLY THINKING ABOUT HAPPY THINGS...
NOT BOUND BY ANYTHING,
UNDER THE SURFACE
I'M STILL JUST ANOTHER SPOILED KID.
'You are too thorough.'
How admirable.
'Wuzuko is meticulous.'
DOING WHAT THE HEART TELLS YOU, FREELY.
IN TRUTH,
I STILL FEEL THAT WAY.

NEXT STOP IS XXX STATION OUR LAST STATION
WAKE UP, NARUMI!
LET'S GET OFF!
HIT
OUCH!
Zzz...
Figures
ARE WE JUST BUYING ANY TICKET AGAIN?
OF COURSE
PREVIOUSLY...
I'VE SHARED THIS WITH SOMEONE, TOO
WE'VE COME QUITE FAR
AND WASTED A LOT OF MONEY.
And time
THIS INNOCENCE AND LACK OF RESPONSIBILITY
I KNOW THIS FEELING

IMPORTANT THINGS ARE VERY LITTLE,
THEY WILL ENRICH YOUR LIFE.
BUT WHEN YOU PUT VALUE IN THEM
THAT MAY SEEM USELESS
CLATTER
THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS
ARE THE USELESS THINGS.
(HUG
A LONG TIME AGO
(HUG
SOMEONE
TAUGHT ME THIS A LONG TIME AGO
HMMM.

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CLANG...
WHAT?
NOTHING.
NEXT STATION
IS XX STATION
XX STATION
SOMETHING
IN UNISON
WITH THE
PRESENCE
IS
RESPONDING
AH!
LET'S
GET OFF
HERE.
THIS KID
IS RELEASING
AIMLESSLY

DO YOU KNOW THIS NEIGHBOUR-HOOD?
NOT REALLY
AH~ I'M HUNGRY~
RUMBLE
TAKOYAKI
THEY'RE SELLING TAKOYAKI! TAKOYAKI!
SO WHAT?
IT'S TAKOYAKI, TAKOYAKI!
LET'S EAT!
YOU'RE A GLUTTON AREN'T YOU?
You ate all the curry outlet at lunch.
Mr, please put a lot of octopus in it!
TAKO

I THINK MY EYES ARE PLAY-ING TRICKS ON ME
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
MIZUHO, IT'S WEIRD
Ahahaha
PAT
Ahahaha.
HEY, IS THAT REALLY SOMETHING YOU SHOULD GET ANGRY ABOUT?
I think I'm fall for you
SHUT UP!
YOU LOOK REALLY CUTE
TAKO

PASS
Ok
HERE, YOU EAT IT
SHUT UP!
PAFF
YOU REALLY ARE A GLUTTON
TAKOYAKI IS MADE WITH EGGS AS WELL
NOM NOM
WAIT!
HMM... Allergies?
On a hot day like this
FISH-BALL?
I CAN'T EAT EGGS
HE REALLY
IS A WEIRD KID
FWOOSH
HE GIVES OFF SUCH A STRONG PRESENCE...

BUT SOMETIMES
IT SEEMS LIKE HE'LL DISAPPEAR INTO THIN AIR,
ANY MINUTE.
AH~ IT'S TOO HOT I WANT TO GO INTO THE SEA.
YOU'LL BE COVERED IN SALT BY THE TIME WE GO HOME.

HUH—?
IT'S THIS NARUMI?

A FRIEND?
YOU LOOK COMPLETELY DIFFERENT, I ALMOST DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU
GRAB
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
YOU'VE BECOME ARROGANT.
HA HA HA HA
YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG PERSON
WHAT ARE YOU SPITTING OUT?
NA...
NARUMI!
NO WAY?! YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
OH- SHE'S QUITE CUTE.
GRAB
HOW DARE YOU, NARUMI
Let's see.
Let go
AH

YOU ARE NAGATO-SENPAI AND MORITA-SENPAI, RIGHT?
WHAT?
I HEARD THAT YOUR FIRST GIRLFRIEND WAS TAKEN AWAY BY KITAKO
ALL BECAUSE OF AN UGLY AND EASY GIRL
IT SEEMED LIKE YOU WERE REALLY INTO HER
TOO BAD

BLUSH
CLENCH
YOU..
HIT
CLING
NOW, THIS IS SELF-DEFENCE

PUNCH
...ACK

GRAB
Uch
YOU—
WHAT—
PLACE
TRAP
YOU'RE TOO COCKY.

THWACK
ACK

EH?
SHOCK
FALLS
AH!
HUH?
ACK
AH...
YOU SON OF A...
STOP RIGHT THERE!
You're dead.
AH- IT HURTS...
MIZUHO, YOU'RE TOO MUCH
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WHY DID YOU PROTECTED THOSE GUYS?
GLANCE
ARE THOSE TYPE OF GUYS YOUR IDEAL MEN?
JINGLE
THEN WHY DID YOU PROVOKE THEM?
THERE WERE TWO OF THEM.
I'm not good at fighting
DID YOU REALLY THINK THAT I'D STAB HIM WITH THAT?
It was just for show
GLANCE
STARE
THAT'S IMMATURE.
It's stupid

IT'S NOT THAT I'M ANGRY OR ANYTHING
MIZUHO
Your hands are shaking.
SHUT UP.
I'M NOT ANGRY.
GIVE ME THAT
The handkerchief
WHY ARE YOU ANGRY?
I'M NOT.
WERE YOU SCARED?
I'M SORRY.
SCARED?

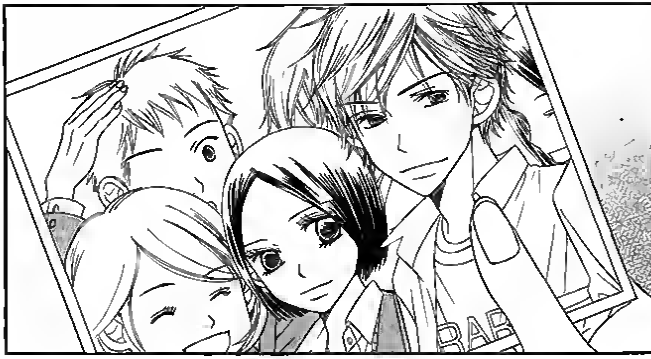
YES.
ALWAYS SCARED,
OF YOU.

WHY DOESN'T YOUR EXPRESSION CHANGE
EVEN WHEN I KISS YOU?
YOU ARE A WEIRD KID.

BUSTT
JTE!...
II
REALLY LIKE HOW I AM
WHEN I'M WITH NARUMI.
BUT AT THE SAME TIME
I HATED MYSELF FOR REACTING TO A GUY LIKE HIM.

ALWAYS
FINDING HIS WAY TO
MY CORE.

Piece①



Yamada
Setouchi Madoka
INSIDE
PIPPI
PIPPI
YES, HELLO?
RIP
TEAR
RIP

MIZUHO?! OH MY—WHAT'S UP? I'M SURPRISED!
YES IT'S ME, MADOKA.
LAST TIME AT HARUKA'S FUNERAL WE COULDN'T EVEN CHAT
YEAH THERE WASN'T ENOUGH TIME
ACTUALLY, I CALLED BECAUSE OF HARUKA...
CAN WE MEET FOR A BIT?
I WANT TO ASK YOU ABOUT HARUKA.

'It seems like Haruka's mum already visited.'
'Apparently she worked here.'
Hmm. Maybe it's worth checking again.
IS THIS THE PLACE...?
THE PLACE WHERE HARUKA USED TO WORK...
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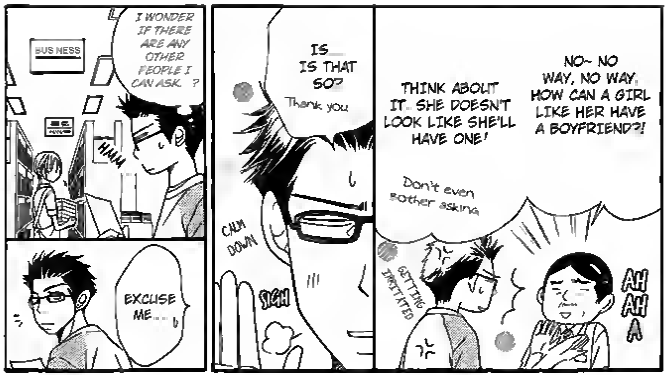
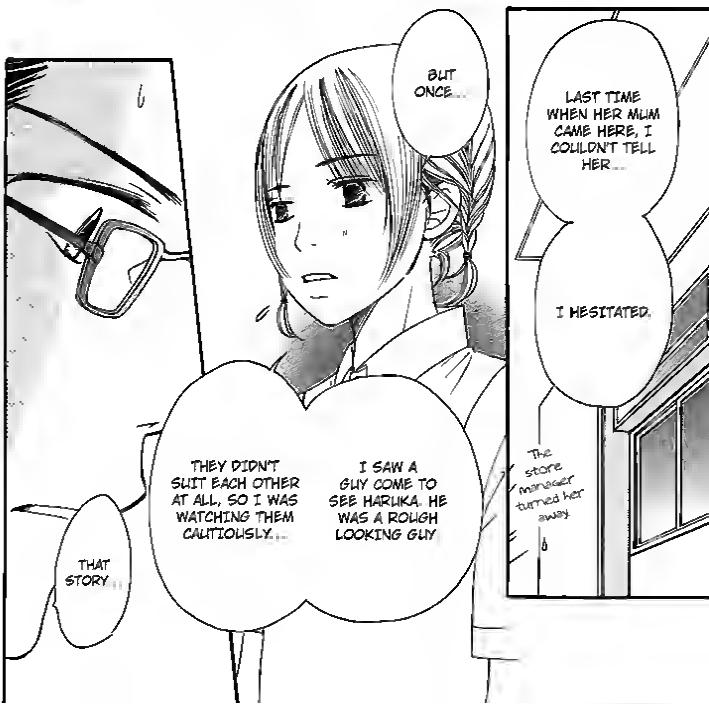
PART-TIME WORK TO PAY FOR A CELL PHONE
AND WENT OUT WITH A GUY IN SECRET...
WHAT KIND OF A GUY IS HE...?
If she can't keep it a secret from her mum
OF COURSE,
I KNOW THAT I SHOULDN'T JUDGE PEOPLE BY THEIR APPEARANCE
YEAH. HER MUM CAME HERE BEFORE AS WELL
HARUKA?
LILY SYMBOLIZES PURITY
THE HARUKA I KNOW
SEEMED TOO INNOCENT TO KNOW A GUY
And very plain
ANNOYED
ANNOYED
AH NOW I'M STARTING TO GET ANGRY


I WONDER IF THERE ARE ANY OTHER PEOPLE I CAN ASK...?
BUSINESS
HUMM...
EXCUSE ME...
IS... IS THAT SO?
Thank you.
CALM DOWN
SIGH
THINK ABOUT IT. SHE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE'LL HAVE ONE!
NO~ NO WAY, NO WAY. HOW CAN A GIRL LIKE HER HAVE A BOYFRIEND?!
Don't even bother asking
SULLEN
AH AH A


BUT ONCE...
LAST TIME WHEN HER MUM CAME HERE, I COULDN'T TELL HER...
I HESITATED.
The store manager turned her away.
THEY DIDN'T SUIT EACH OTHER AT ALL, SO I WAS WATCHING THEM CAUTIOUSLY...
I SAW A GUY COME TO SEE HARUKA. HE WAS A ROUGH LOOKING GUY
THAT STORY...

FORCEFULLY EXPOSING IT?
IS IT FINDING OUT SOMEONE ELSE'S EVERYTHING
AND
CAN YOU TELL ME MORE?
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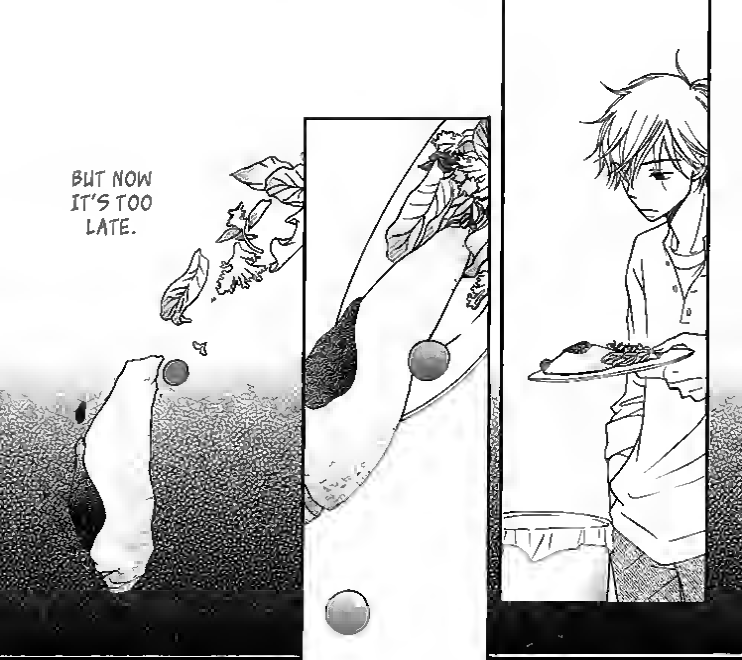
THAT SELFISH DESIRE
CANNOT BE CALLED LOVE.
WHAT DOES 'WANT TO KNOW' MEAN?
NARUMI
...

MADAM,
I BEG YOU,
PLEASE DON'T COOK ANYMORE EGG MEALS.
-How many years have you been my housekeeper?
SOMETIMES IT'S BETTER NOT TO KNOW.
OPEN
THE YOUNG MASTER SHOULD START EATING EGGS.



I CAN HEAR

THE PUZZLE PIECES BEING PUT TOGETHER

...FALLING...

Piece ①

ベツコミフラワーコミックス

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